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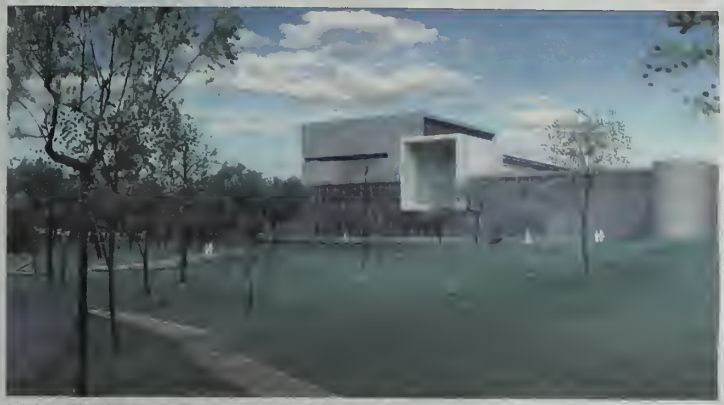

Artist's rendition of the new Health Professions Center building that will be located next to T-building. *Photo courtesy of JJC website.*

Health Center building breaks ground

BY RACHEL STELLA
Co-Editor-in-Chief

A long-awaited moment for the Joliet Junior College Nursing and Allied Health Department came on Jan. 25 at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Health Professions Center.

The new building, which is scheduled for completion by fall 2013, will expand the nursing and allied health programs and add new programs, such as occupational and physical therapy as well as massage therapy.

The ceremony, held indoors in the T-Building Conference Center, was well-attended by members of the college community. Sen. A.J. Wilhelmi and Rep. Emily McAsey made appearances at the event.

Robert Wunderlich, president of the college's Board of Trustees, cited the passing of the 2008 referendum for funding the 124,000 square-foot, $45 million building.

College President Gena Proulx emphasized the importance of the college's effect on the local workforce, saying the education and training provided at JJC is "very critical" in impacting the field of health care.

Proulx went on to say that positions in health care and related fields are projected to make up 26 percent of new jobs through 2018, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

A highlight of the ceremony was the appearance of iStan, the department's "human patient simulator" that allows nursing students to practice patient care on a simulated patient.

Kelli Wall, Coordinator of Nursing Simulation, expressed excitement about iStan and the new simulation center in the building. The simulation center will contain four hospital rooms, a radiological tech center and an ambulance bay that the fire science program will use for a fire engine.

"I think the students will have more independence [in the simulation center]," said Wall, who explained that the center will feature a control room that allows instructors to observe students without the students being able to see their instructors.

The Health Professions Center will be located just north of the T-Building, and the two buildings will be connected.

See groundbreaking photos on page 3

JJC reacts to Tucson tragedy

BY KAT BOEHLE
Co-Editor-in-Chief

An event that has plagued the news since the beginning of the semester is the Tucson shootings that took place on Jan. 8, killing six people and injuring 13 others as an attempted assassination on Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords.

So how does this personally affect Joliet Junior College? Alleged shooter Jared Loughner was a student at Pima Community ***College. Tucson's equivalent to*** JJC.

After receiving complaints from students about inappropriate behavior, Loughner was suspended from Pima four weeks into his first term and was told that he could not return to school until he saw a mental health professional.

"In our view, [the Pima authorities] did a good job," said Betsy Oudenhoven, Vice President of Student Development. "They couldn't do anything beyond what they did, and JJC would have done the same thing."

See TUCSON on page 3

JJC chef to participate in Culinary Olympics

BY RYAN HACKMAN
Staff Writer

Joliet Junior College Culinary Arts Professor Tim Bucci is one of seven chefs from across the nation chosen to be on the U.S. Culinary Olympic team that will compete at the summer 2012 Culinary Olympics in Erfurt, Germany.

Held every four years, the event brings together the best chefs from nearly 60 nations to test their culinary skills. Bucci participated in the 2008 World Culinary Olympics in Beijing, where one of his entries, a wild sockeye salmon and sturgeon buffet platter for eight that included six appetizer plates of lobster, quail, rabbit, vegetarian, rainbow trout and pork, won the gold medal in its class.

Even after his 2008 achievement, Bucci, a JJC graduate, still had to try out to be considered for the 2012 team, organized by the American Culinary Federation. After being one of 35 chosen from a larger applicant pool earlier this year, Bucci was successful in two competitions—one devoted to cold food, the other to a hot food dish—and made the final cut.

"I guess most of all the learning that will come from this adventure will be priceless," said Bucci about what he is looking forward to the most. "It will better myself and most of all it will be experience and knowledge I can give back to my students."

Bucci said the chefs had to present platters, plates and finger foods for the cold foods display. Those who did well were invited back to participate in the hot foods tryout, which consisted

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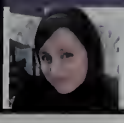

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EDITORIAL

Pay attention to your surroundings

All JJC students should have received an e-mail about the college's response to threats of violence on campus. This topic was revisited in the wake of the shootings in Arizona allegedly perpetrated by a former community college student, Jared Loughner.

It was noted that several of his fellow students, following the shooting incident, reported very odd and disturbing behaviors from Loughner, according to a CBS news article.

JJC's Behavioral Intervention Team believes that students can more easily recognize strange behaviors exhibited by their fellow students than instructors or others who do not see the students as often or in the same context. Because of that, the administrators are encouraging all students to speak to a staff member or faculty member if any student's actions and/or comments make them uncomfortable.

The Behavioral Intervention Team was created to help the various college departments work together to deal with threats or potential threats of violence. Now the team is asking us as students to work with them by either notifying them or calling for campus police if the threat is immediate.

This course of action seems good. It is always advisable to be aware of your surroundings and the people present. We recommend that you have the campus police phone number and other numbers for campus staff programmed into your cell phone. (A card with pertinent phone numbers is available from the Dean of Students.)

While cases like Loughner's are very rare, that should not make us lax in watching out for ourselves and others. If anyone on campus makes you feel particularly uncomfortable, or you fear that he or she may take an extreme action of any sort, there are authorities that are prepared to hear and respond to your concerns.

But, while we need to be aware, we should not feel paranoid about some freak incident happening. College is a place for students to learn and to prepare themselves to compete in the job market. The point of implementing a Behavioral Intervention Team is to help protect the learning environment—not to make the college community afraid.

Put the emergency numbers in your phone. Know where the police department and other staff offices are located. Be aware of who is around you and what is going on. Be civil in your interactions with others.

Finally, keep up-to-date with the communication sent out by the JJC staff, and communicate any concerns you may have to them. Greater awareness leads to greater safety. But don't be afraid, be aware.

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All victims of Tucson tragedy deserve to be remembered

BY KAT BOEHLE
Co-Editor-in-Chief

As on our cover this issue, the Tucson shootings in Arizona that took place the weekend before our semester began has been infesting magazine covers, newspapers and websites.

Although it is now starting to die down a smidgen, we still hear constant updates on Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords' current state of recovery after receiving a gunshot wound through her brain.

A very well-known fact that news sources often state is that there were six killed and 13 wounded. Another fact that is well-known is that of the six people killed, one of them was 9-year-old Christina Green. We also know that two of the other people killed were a chief judge of the U.S. District Court of Arizona as well as an older gentleman who was shot when shielding his wife.

My point here is that while 19 people were hit with a bullet that Saturday morning, only four of them are getting a lot of recognition, and only two of them are getting recognized constantly by name.

I understand that it is tragic that a promising 9-year-old like Green had to get caught in this kind of epidemic and it is a miracle that Giffords survived, but what about everyone else?

Being a part of the Blazer staff and knowing a little bit about how the media works when crossing their stories, I understand that media outlets are always looking for the juiciest story.

While a congresswoman surviving a bullet through the brain and a 9-year-old being killed are indeed the juiciest stories, doesn't everyone who was affected by a national tragedy deserve some kind of recognition?

Listening to the news on the radio, all I have heard is about Giffords and Green, and occasionally about a "chief judge" and "man who died shielding his wife," yet there were four other people killed and 12 other people injured besides Giffords.

Through online research, I have discovered the name of the judge was 63-year-old John Roll, and the name of the man shielding his wife was 76-year-old Dorwan Stoddard, a minister from Tucson.

Others killed included 30-year old Gabe Zimmerman, 76-year-old Dorothy Morris, and 79-year-old Phyllis Schneck. According to CBS News, Zimmerman was Giffords' director of outreach since 2006 and was engaged to be married. Morris and Zimmerman were retirees.

They also mention two of the wounded being part of Giffords' staff, including deputy director Ron Barber and community outreach worker Pam Simon.

Yet I cannot find the names of the other 10 people injured.

Something else that I noticed while researching was that Green and Roll had the longest paragraphs, while Stoddard and Zimmerman had much shorter paragraphs. Morris and Schneck got maybe a sentence or two.

Maybe the major news outlets did not feel like Morris, Zimmerman, Schneck and the other 12 victims had a big enough story, but in my humble opinion, a good journalist can find a story in almost anything. And any journalist should be able to find a good story if it's related to something as tragic as the Tucson shootings.

So although the major news outlets are mainly informing you about Giffords and Green, let's not forget about the other 17 people involved in such a tragedy.

Letter Policy

The Blazer encourages participation from readers through letters. Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authencity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at F-1009.

Contact information:

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Phone number:
815-280-2313

TUSCON from page 1

Because of the tragedy in Tucson, Oudenhoven said that the college has been looking at its procedures of dealing with potentially troubled students.

For three years, JJC has had a Behavioral Intervention Team that was put together after the 2008 shootings at Northern Illinois University. The team consists of Oudenhoven, Dean of Students Cynthia Vazquez-Barrios, Chief of Police Pete Commanda, Head of Counseling Mildred Holmes, StAR Manager Jaque Klilka, Director of Human Resources Joyce Coleman, Director of Student Activities Pam Dilday, and Coordinator of Residence Life Evie Newman.

The team is there as a resource for faculty and staff to go to whenever they believe there is a troubled student that should seek help. However, Oudenhoven said that the team has come to realize that in these tragic events, it's typically someone closer to the individual (i.e. a fellow student) that observes the mentally unhealthy behavior first.

"You [students] know each other better than we do and [you] are usually the first to pick up the signs," Oudenhoven said.

Although professors have had access to this information, the team's new goal is to make students as informed as possible about observing the behavior of fellow students and what they should do if they happen to observe troubling behaviors.

To begin their efforts, Oudenhoven sent out an e-mail to the student body on Thursday, Jan. 27, concerning the Tucson shootings and to inform students of three categories troubled students could fall into and what actions to take.

The first category is when a student is "distressed." When this happens, Oudenhoven said one should advise the distressed student to see one of the college's counselors or to inform a faculty member who can assist getting the student help.

The second category is when the student is "distressing"—creating discomfort to people around him or her and possibly having some mental health issues. In this case, an observing student should contact someone on the intervention team. Oudenhoven advises students who are not comfortable talking to someone on the team to simply tell a faculty member that he or she is comfortable talking to.

And the third category is if the student is posing an immediate threat or danger, in which case one should call Campus Police's emergency number at (815) 280-2911.

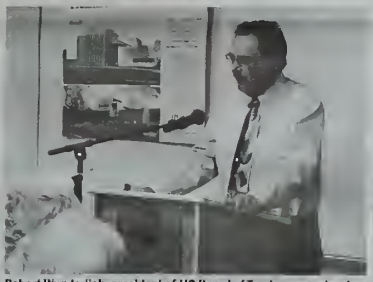
In addition, Oudenhoven said the team is planning to schedule trainings that students can attend on preventing violent behavior at the college and also to inform the student body through the Collegiate Club Council and JJC Student Government.

"While we all hope that we will never experience an act of violence on campus, we also know that the best prevention is for individuals to share their concerns so that the college can respond in a proactive and caring manner," said Oudenhoven. "For this, we need your help."

For more information on the Behavioral Intervention Team or to provide ideas to help inform students, Oudenhoven encourages you to contact her at boudenho@jjc.edu.

GROUNDBREAKING from page 1

Nursing students demonstrate how they work on iStan, the nursing department's "human patient simulator."



Robert Wunderlich, president of JJC Board of Trustees, speaks at the groundbreaking.

College President Gena Proulx speaks of new opportunities that the new Health Professions Center will provide.

Photos by Kat Boehle

JJC's new Health Professions Center is scheduled to open in Fall 2013.

See additional photo on page 10.

CHEF from page 1

Chef Tim Bucci

of a fish course and meat course that took two and a half hours to complete.

Bucci said that the preparation for the 2012 Olympics will take a lot of time and will be intense.

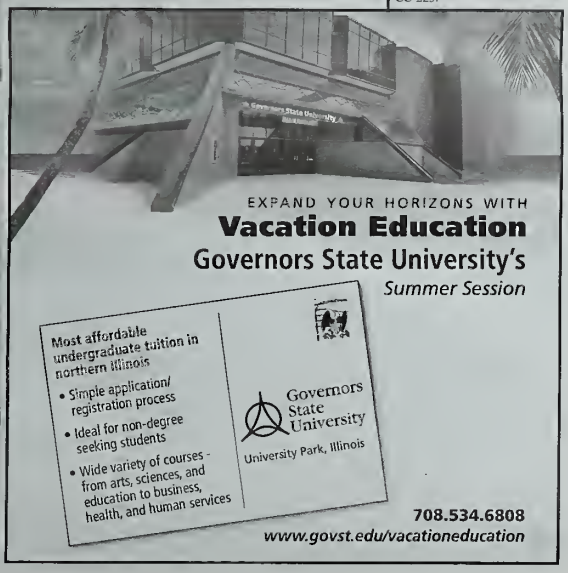
"The journey that will take place over the next 20 months, from practicing every month with the team (usually takes place in another state 3-4 days at a time), the time of writing menu ideas and trying to create new and innovative ways of showcasing your talents and techniques at the Olympics," Bucci said.

With the international competition less than two years away, Bucci said in addition to good, old-fashioned practice, he and his teammates also take part in smaller contests to prepare. Most recently, Bucci said the U.S. team competed with 26 other culinary teams in the Villeroy & Boch Culinary World Cup in Luxembourg held in late November.

They came in third place, with gold medals in the hot food portion and cold food display, competing against teams from Wales, Italy and Malta.

In addition, Bucci is in charge of the JJC Renaissance Center Friday Night Dinner Series and the Tuesday A la Carte Lunches.

For more information, Bucci can be contacted in the Culinary Arts and Hospitality department or at tbucci@jjc.edu or in room CC-223.



OSA sponsors first coat drive

BY AMANDA WOOLSEY
Staff Writer

With all the commotion of the start of a new semester, including meeting new faces and preparing for another Mainstreet club fair, the celebration of the birthday of America's most well-known Civil Rights activist, Martin Luther King Jr., can sometimes be overlooked.

King once stated, "An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity."

While watching the news one night, JJC student Tavia Hanrahan learned about two deaths of homeless people in Joliet caused by the harsh weather in late November. This increased her awareness of the wintertime experiences of those without places to stay.

"I began to feel guilty that I was warm in my bed with two blankets and a space heater, while these people were suffering in this bitter cold and dying from hypothermia," said Hanrahan.

Feeling compelled to make a change, she proposed the idea of a coat drive to Pam Dilday, Director of Student Activities at JJC. Dilday agreed, saying that she wanted to do something for MLK week and that this was the perfect activity. After critiquing the idea, the drive was expanded to include food, blankets, clothing and other supplies in addition to coats.

"These people need a lot more than a coat to get them through the rest of the winter," said Hanrahan.

The coordinators believe the drive has been a huge success overall, after receiving numerous donations of the essentials needed to survive this winter.

The drive was held from Jan. 17 through Jan. 28. Items were collected in large boxes located throughout the campus.

The donated supplies were split between MorningStar Mission and Daybreak Shelter, both located in downtown Joliet. The shelters provide assistance to individuals and families with housing needs.

Both shelters appreciated the donations made by the JJC community.

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MLK week starts off with 'JJC Squares'

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Photo Editor

To kick off Martin Luther King Jr. week, the Office of Student Activities coordinated the event "JJC Squares: MLK Edition" on Monday, Jan. 18.

The event was patterned after the game show "Hollywood Squares," but stuck to a Martin Luther King Jr. theme. The squares themselves symbolized individuals who participated in the event. Each contestant was asked questions about King. Through participation, students and faculty learned facts about King and the period in which he lived.

"Our event helps preserve the history of him—that's our main goal," said Pam Dilday, Director of Student Activities. "His teachings in history need to be preserved and re-taught every year to people to better themselves."

OSA puts together a series of events each year during the Tuesday-Friday following the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. The week is known as "Martin Luther King Jr. Week" at JJC.

"The support from our faculty and staff is enormous," said Dilday. "We learn and have fun during this week. We've had six years of this and it continues to be a success, teaching us about obedience, civility and service to everyone—something we hope to keep going throughout our teachings."

The student activities coordinators make it a priority to commemorate King each year at JJC in honor of the principles he advocated.

"Our event is just a small reminder of his magnificent life," said Dilday. "We honor him all this week hoping that kids and adults everywhere learn what he stood for and take his teachings and apply them to their lives."

Mainstreet takes on 'Mardi Gras' theme

By Haley Hubert
Copy Editor

The halls of JJC were festive and bright as gold, green and purple made the atmosphere fun and inviting. Rows of tables lined the halls, decorated with vibrant tablecloths and bouquets of balloons.

In case you were wondering, there was not a party. But the JJC Mainstreet club fair, which took on a Mardi Gras theme this semester, is something our student body celebrated.

Being a part of the junior college atmosphere doesn't mean one has to miss out on participating in school activities. JJC's Mainstreet makes participating in school activities all the more easier by puting all of its various clubs and organizations on display for all to see.

Students can jump from table to table, speaking with club representatives about the clubs that spark their interest. If interested, they can write down their name and contact information and find out about club meeting dates. It's a good way to find out about what you can get involved in if you're not involved already.

"It was really nice to see what clubs were available for me to join," said student Stacy Bartels. "I didn't really know much about what clubs there were here my first semester, so seeing all of these clubs gave me a lot of ideas as what I'd like to do to get involved."

Over 20 clubs were on display for the students to see. Members sat at every table, inviting spectators to come check out what their clubs had to offer. Many club members got into the Mardi Gras spirit wearing beads or Mardi Gras-colored clothing. Some tables were even handing out food, lanyards, shirts and other school-related gifts.

One club represented at the fair, the History Club, had a table set up with faculty club adviser Rick Hungate presenting information about the club.

Hungate remarked that out of however many students sign up at Mainstreet, about 20 to 30 percent of the students show up to the History Club. This still proves beneficial to the club.

If you missed Mainstreet and are interested in the clubs and organizations on campus, you can check out a list of clubs and contact information at www.jjc.edu/student-life/clubs-orgs/.

Enjoy writing? Taking Photos? Then work for the Blazer! The Blazer is always on the look-out for new staff writers and photographers, so feel free to contact us!

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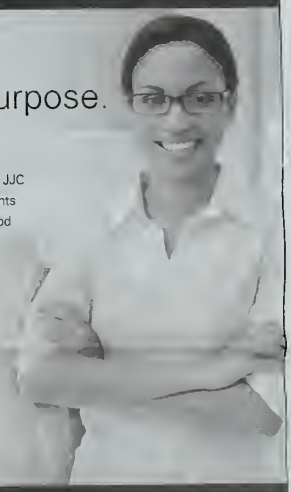

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MLK week holds panel discussion

Students participate in forum regarding modern cultural issues

BY JOSHUA PRICE
Staff Writer

The Martin Luther King, Jr. panel discussion was held on Friday, Jan 21. The panel was titled "Can't We All Just Get Along?" and consisted of three students and two educators. About 50-75 students gathered in the Fine Arts Theatere to speak with the panel and ask questions.

Members of the panel responded directly to student questions and comments, and also asked the student body to comment on specific subjects related to current society.

While the title implies a discussion about King's life and works, the actual event was more of an open discussion (and occasional argument) about the state of our current society. Students were provided with a series of sample questions that would be addressed, but most of the discussion centered on students' perceptions regarding racism in today's world.

The event was the brainchild of Deandre Butler, who is the Academic Support Specialist for Project Achieve. It is the second time that the panel has been held, although it took a slightly different form from last year.

Last year's event was primarily faculty-driven, and Mr. Butler did not feel that the discussion picked up until Nathaniel Boatwright, a student at JJC, spoke about his experiences as a drug dealer.

This year Butler was hesitant to hold the discussion again. But overwhelming student response eventually convinced him to announce the event again. Butler stated that his primary goal this year was to "let the students speak out, instead of us talking at them."

To this end, he filled the panel primarily with students, and asked faculty members to encourage debate within the audience.

Among the audience members were about 20 students from the Joliet Job Corps, a residential vocational training program for low-income youth. They were led by Dominique Pierce, an educator at the Job Corps and a panel member.

The students from the Job Corps were especially excited about JJC, and several mentioned that they may want to register at the college later.

The debate opened with Professor Frederick Douglas Dixon, who spoke about King's life and beliefs. That was the end of the history lesson, however, as the students in the audience confidently debated the opportunities held by African Americans today.

The panel had been given a few questions as guidance for the debate, but these were quickly shown to be unnecessary. Every statement by a panel member was followed by at least five from a member of the audience, who had a strong desire to be heard.

Butler spent the majority of his time trying to keep track of all the students who wanted to speak, and panel members were actually interrupted by students several times.

The discussion got especially heated when one audience member used the phrase "white supremacy" in reference to owners of certain powerful media establishments. Several students rallied together to argue against the phrase, stating that it discriminates against Caucasians who are not racist.

The disagreement seemed to galvanize the remaining students who hadn't spoken, and resulted in several exchanges between the faculty members and students.

The faculty members also stated several times that racism is still holding African Americans down. This actually contrasted with the stance that the audience generally agreed upon, which was that African Americans "have no more excuses," and are responsible for their own futures.

A number of students stood to say that they believed the individual was to blame for his or her own fate. Some students related stories about friends of family members who had thrown away their lives and opportunities, and some even stated that they had wasted their own. One of the student members of the panel, Eric Fleming, spoke about his own past mistakes.

"We ran around the neighborhood, joined gangs, did a lot of things that we shouldn't have done," he said.

"I think [the event] went extremely well," said Cara Esters, one of the student panelists. "People received a lot of knowledge."

When asked what she hoped people would learn from the experience, Esters replied, "I wish we could understand that we have to make sacrifices in order to be successful. Sometimes we can't find a job we want, and we don't want to take a job that's below our standards. We want to work for 12 dollars an hour. But taking a lower-paying job is a sacrifice that can lead to better jobs later." Esters is studying history and teaching, and is in her sophomore year at JJC.

Though the discussion centered on very sensitive subject matter, the conversation always remained polite and intelligent. Those who didn't make it missed out on a serious and energetic discussion.

Those who participated appeared glad to have done so, since the issues discussed affect everyone.

A particularly sharp JJC student summed it up nicely: "Racism will never end, but we can make it minimal. We can make it one of our more insignificant problems, rather than one of our major ones."

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Student serves on national board

JJC representative working on publisher's college-readiness website

BY KAT BOEHLE
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Pearson, the world's leading education company, is the publisher that prints most of your textbooks and is also owner of the Penguin brand.

For their fourth year, Pearson has chosen a set of 12 college students from across the country to be on their Student Advisory Board, a board that gives college students a voice to address important issues concerning education products.

"Each year, we have an unprecedented number of highly ambitious student leaders vying for a seat on the Pearson Student Advisory Board, who are endorsed by a range of thoughtful business executives, university administrators and faculty," said Teresa Chung, Director of Student Relations for Pearson Higher Education. "This year we had close to 500 student applications."

For this year's board, out of the almost 500 applicants, Joliet Junior College student Flor Cerda made the cut as one of two community college students and the only student representing Illinois to hold a seat on the board.

"The Pearson Student Advisory Board essentially acts as Pearson's undergraduate Board of Directors," said Rod Granger, Communications Editor of Pearson High Education. "It was formed based on the belief that students can provide invaluable guidance to company leaders."

Although having graduated in December 2010, Cerda is currently finishing up at JJC as a chemical engineering major and is hoping to transfer to the University of Illinois in the fall.

In addition to being on the advisory board and being a current student, Cerda is also a member of the Honors Program, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Alpha Mu Gamma Honor Society for Foreign Languages. She is also currently interning at Exelon Nuclear, the largest nuclear fleet in the country.

Cerda has also served as President of the Peer Mentor Leadership Program—a group of mentors that assists incoming minority students—and has worked for the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs where she helped improve Latino student outreach.

She has also been a peer tutor for chemistry, math and Spanish, and currently works as a chemistry lab assistant for the Natural Sciences Department.

"Flor Cerda is committed to helping her college peers and community," said Chung. "As a member of the Pearson Student Advisory Board, we think she will bring a diverse point of view through her international and community college experience, as well as her enthusiasm to excel in education."

In the selection process, Cerda said that there were three different steps for making the final cut, including the general application, a phone interview, and then a personal interview where a Pearson representative flew to Joliet from New York to do the interview in person.

The students on the board were split into two groups to work on two different projects for the company. Cerda said she was placed into the College Career Readiness Committee with five other students, where they are currently working on a college readiness website: alleyoop.com.

The website is geared toward middle school and high school students to help them prepare for college. It includes blogs, videos, tips, live tutoring and career surveys, according to Cerda.

Although the website has not gone live yet, it is already online, and members of the group are adding to it weekly and are advertising the site on Facebook.

Students from the board have been coming up with all of the ideas for the site including one idea that Cerda came up with where she walked around campus to ask fellow students on advice that they wish they would have received before attending JJC.

"I'm very happy about the product," Cerda said. "We need to target issues early enough in order to have more successful college students."

Cerda said that in addition to each of the group's projects, the board also works with the product teams at Pearson to ask for a student's perspective on new and current college materials, including MyMathLab and Mastering Chemistry.

Flor Cerda *Photo courtesy of JJC website*

"They want to see how students are doing on our campuses so that they help students succeed through their products," Cerda said.

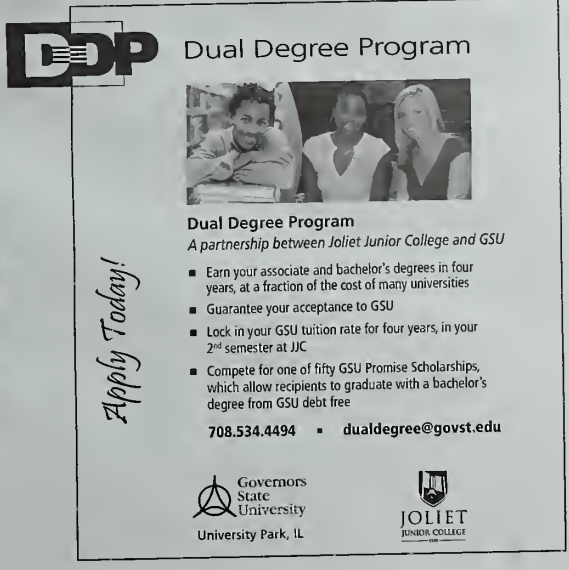
Cerda said that the team has met with the creator of MyMathLab and has gotten to travel to Arizona and Boston, Mass. to meet with other creators and the publishers of Pearson Textbooks.

"I feel like I've been involved at the college and know what's going on," Cerda said. "I wanted to be a bigger voice for the college, which is something that I can do through Pearson in order to give us better products."

Cerda said that she particularly had a lot to say about MyMathLab in regards to personal and other student's experiences with the program.

She also said that being on the board has better prepared her for the professional world and that to be able to meet with the creators of the books has made her more appreciative of the publishing industry.

Having started in July, Cerda will continue to participate on the board and work on their projects until May.



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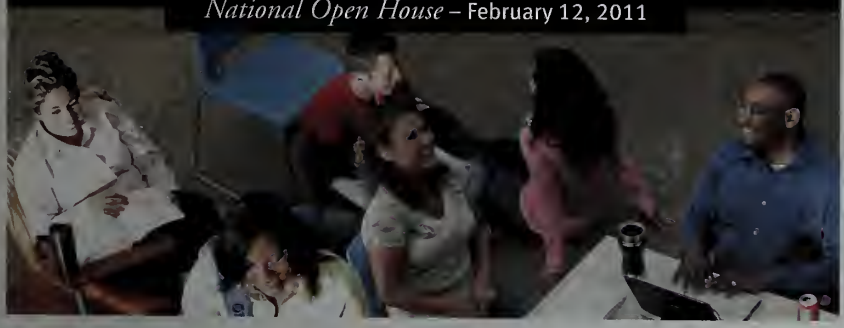

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Upcoming Events

American Red Cross Blood Drive
Feb. 7 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Center Bridge

Relay For Life Kickoff
Feb. 8 – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Center Bridge

JJC Got Talent? Auditions
Feb. 10 – Starting at 10 a.m. – Center Bridge

Safe Zone: GLBTQ and Minorities
Feb 16 – 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. – J-0006

Brown Bag Lecture Series: Soul Music—North vs. South
Feb. 17 – 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. – J-0006

Muslim Student Association, "Jesus in Islam"
Feb. 22 – 11 a.m. – Bridge

JJC Got Talent? Student Talent Showcase
Feb. 25 – 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. – *Cafeteria*

News Briefs

Business Club seeks members

The Joliet Junior College Business Club is seeking students who want to start their own companies in the future, as well as students in fields that require a business degree to hold a management position. The Business Club is heavily involved with the local community and wants to use real-world problems to train students. Their mission is to train ethical and high-performing leaders in the global marketplace.

"Jail and Bail" for charity

Student Government is once again sponsoring the Jail and Bail program to raise money for charity. The charity for this year is the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana.

"Arrested" parties must fundraise their own bail to avoid being "jailed." For complete rules, visit the Student Government office.

Transfer fair

The JJC Elementary Teachers of Tomorrow club is sponsoring a university transfer fair on Friday, Feb. 25 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. on the Bridge. Information will be available about elementary, early childhood and special education programs from many colleges and universities throughout Illinois.

Europe trip planned for May 2012

Mark Wilson, Adjunct Instructor in English, is planning a 12-day trip to Europe for students and staff in May of 2012. The locations will include Paris, Provence, Barcelona and Madrid. Any JJC students or staff are invited to participate. An informational meeting will be held in room C-2015 on Feb. 16 at 5 p.m.

New welding instructor

The Technical Department would like to welcome Gregory Foster to Joliet Junior College. Foster comes to JJC from Monroe, Mich. He has over 25 years' experience in the welding field prior to his teaching experience.

He was an adjunct for the past 10 years at four different community colleges in the Southeast Michigan area. He also has developed and conducted training sessions for various companies during that time as well. He has a Masters' Degree in Career and Technology Education from Bowling Green State University.

Foster's goal here is to enhance and grow the welding program at JJC academically and in the corporate community as well, while maintaining primary focus on the students within the program.

Sexual Responsibility Week program

On Thursday, Feb. 3, JJC counselors Sherri Morrow and Eric Dutt will conduct sessions on gender differences as part of Sexual Responsibility Week, sponsored by the Office of Holistic Wellness.

Morrow's session, at 11 a.m., will be an all-female discussion on issues college women face.

Dutt's session, at 1 p.m., will be an all-male discussion about issues that are affecting college men today.

Both sessions will cover issues such as relationships, self-esteem, technology and sexual health.

The sessions will be held in rooms J0006 and J0007 on the Main Campus.

For more information, contact Amy Sims at 815-280-2202 or asims@jjc.edu.

Blood drive scheduled

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at the Main Campus on Monday, Feb. 7, on Center Bridge from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

All donors must have a picture ID.

Appointments can be made through Amy Sims at asims@jjc.edu, but walk-ins will be accepted if time allows.

The event is sponsored by the Office of Holistic Wellness.

Relay For Life kick-off

If you are interested in helping to raise money to fight cancer, you will have the opportunity to take part in a fundraising event at Lewis University in March.

The All College Relay For Life will be held on March 25-26 in the Lewis University Fieldhouse. The annual event raises money for the American Cancer Society.

The JJC kickoff for the event will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 8, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Main Campus Center Bridge. You can either stop by to get information or to sign up for a team.

The event is being sponsored at JJC by the Office of Holistic Wellness.

For more information, contact Amy Sims at asims@jjc.edu.

Scholarship workshops

FAFSA/Scholarship Workshops will be held at the Morris Education Center on Tuesday, Feb. 15, at 6 p.m.

The workshops are designed for students who need more information about FAFSA and the scholarships available at JJC.

Spanish translators will be available. The workshops are being sponsored by the JJC Financial Aid Office.

For more information please visit one of the following web pages: www.jjc.edu/info/financialaid, or www.jjc.edu/info/scholarships.

Safe Zone presentation

Safe Zone allies and interested students and staff are invited to attend a presentation by Carlos Serrato from Lewis University on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (GLBTQ) issues related to Minority Communities on Wednesday, Feb. 16, from noon to 1:30 p.m.

The presentation will be held on the Main Campus, Room J0006.

For more information, contact Pam Dilday at 815-280-2755 or pdilday@jjc.edu.

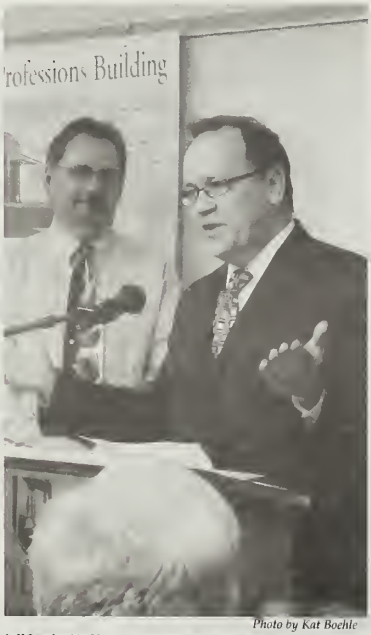

Photo by Kat Bochle

Jeff Sronkoski of Legat Architects, the architects who are working with JJC to design all the new structures in the college expansion, addresses those in attendance at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Health Professionals Building. JJC Board of Trustees President Robert Wunderlich looks on in the background. See other photos on page 3.

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Annie Suhyk BFA '2010, Behold (detail), 2010, mixed media installation

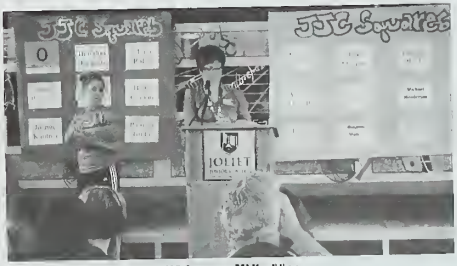
JJC STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Want to see what goes on around campus? Take a look at some of these pictures and find out!

Photos courtesy of JJC's Office of Student Activities

On Jan. 20 Michael Robinson speaks for MLK week.

AWEN holds craft table on the JJC bridge during Mainstreet .



Pam Dilday asks questions at JJC Squares: MLK edition.

All the donations that were made during OSA's clothing and food drive.

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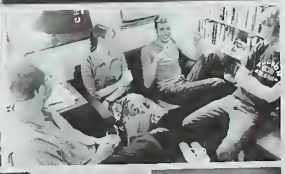
Crystal Fernandez '11
Transfer Student



'No Strings Attatched': just another typical romantic comedy

Photo courtesy of Paramount Pictures

Natalie Portman and Ashton Kutcher star in the new romantic comedy "No Strings Attatched."

BY KEVIN STERNE
Staff Writer

"No Strings Attached" is a fantastic album by the hit boy band *NSYNC. ...You just got FUNK'D. It is actually an average romantic comedy starring Ashton Kuteber and Natalie Portman.

It has appeal to couples, with a few shots of humor for the guys and a cute story that girls will love. It's a cookie cutter film for lead actor Kutcher, who has credits in numerous similar films, but a step into a new genre for Portman, star of arguably this year's best film, "Black Swan."

While Portman does not follow up with a better acting job in "No Strings Attached," she at least proves dynamic enough to take on any role. With two films from completely opposite genres released only months apart, Portman shows how talented of an actress she really is.

Kutcher plays the stereotypical good guy character, named Adam, in search of a relationship. Early in the story, he reunites with childhood friend Emma (Portman). Distraught after discovering his dad is dating Adam's ex-girlfriend, he spends the night at Emme's apartment and wakes up dazed and hung-over after a night of heavy boozing.

Emma explains that she is looking for a "sex friend" due to her busy and hectic schedule as a doctor. The film is fairly predictable from then on, with things going smoothly until they begin to fall in love with each other.

There is a good supporting cast in this film. Mindy Kaling from the hit show "The Office" and rapper Ludacris play the best friends of Emma and Adam, respectively. While both are mediocre in their roles, their comic anecdotes are above average.

This is obviously a movie to see as a couple and I would not recommend this to any gentleman out there unless accompanied by a woman. I have to question the release date of this film—a Valentine's Day release makes more sense to me.

I can't emphasize how similar this is to other romantic comedies out there, mainly because they all star Ashton Kutcher—"Valentine's Day," "My Boss's Daughter," "A Lot Like Love," "Just Married" and "What Happens In Vegas," just to name a few. But that aside, I would compare this movie loosely to "500 Days of Summer." It has a similar premise with the guy and girl at ends over having a relationship.

Overall, this is a movie that caters to a specific audience—couples or groups of girls. I would be surprised to hear about any single guys going out to see "No Strings Attached." But that does not take away from it being a mildly funny and cute little flick. Yeah, I said that last part.

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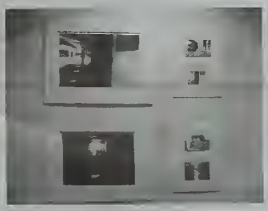
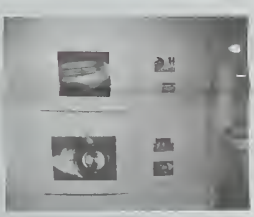
High school students' photos displayed in art gallery

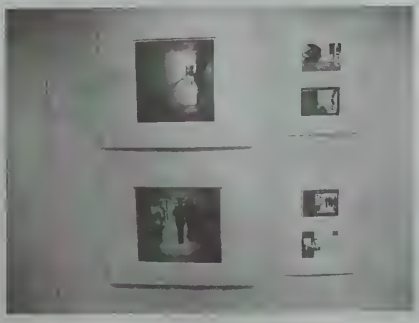
Story by William Mallady

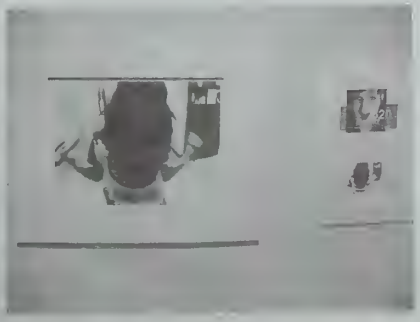
A photo exhibit entitled "Room 260" will be running at the Joliet Junior College Laura A. Sprague Gallery from Jan. 18 through Feb. 10. Joe Baltz, photo instructor at Joliet Central High School, selected the photos for the show. The exhibit, overseen by JJC art professor Joe Milosevich, features exclusively black and white photos. The exhibit takes its name from Joliet Central's photography 'zine, also overseen by Baltz. "Room 260" features profiles of photographers at Joliet Central High School, "Helpful Hints" for aspiring photographers, work by students and studies of famous photos. "Black and white has always been a big part of photography," said Milosevich in response to why the exhibit is in black and white. "The film is cheaper to develop; it's often more evident than color; it's more stark. There's just something about it." The art gallery, located on the second floor of J-building, is open 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday through Friday.



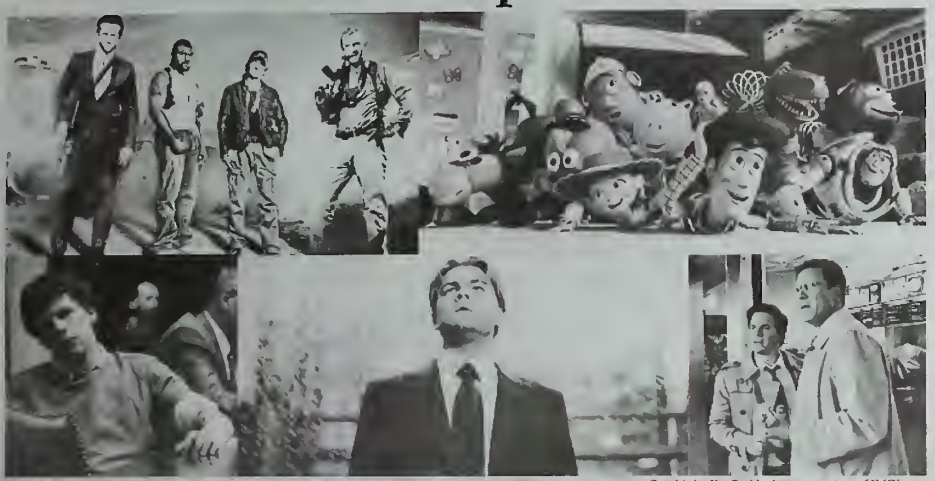


Photos by Eric Monahan





Miller's Movies: Top 5 films of 2010



Clockwise from top left: *The A-Team*, *Toy Story 3*, *The Other Guys*, *Inception*, and *The Social Network*.

Graphic by Kat Boehle, images courtesy of IMDb.com

BY RYAN MILLER
Production Manager

#5 The A-Team: Although a lot of people may disagree with me on this movie, I think that it deserves more credit than what it actually got. Hollywood was always talking about making an A-Team movie ever since the popular TV show became a hit. Some argue that the action sequences weren't all that great; I disagree.

Just because it is an action movie doesn't mean that every five minutes of it doesn't have to be filled with an explosion or gore. It had, in my opinion, the right amount of action along with some comedy that the TV show was known for. I know it's not any "Saving Private Ryan" or "Inglorious Basterds," but this A-Team far was impressed on how well of a job Joe Carnahan, the director, did making this movie.

#4 The Other Guys: "The Other Guys" is my number four on my list for 2010 because of its hilarity. Although it came close to the end of 2010, it was one of the best comedies by far. The reason I liked it more than, say, "Get Him to the Greek" or "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World" is because it entices a certain random humor.

I'm not saying that the other two movies were bad or anything, I'm just saying that this movie brought something different to the table. Another very important thing that it has is more memorable, or funnier, quotes to remember it by.

#3 The Social Network: One of the most talked-about movies of the decade that deserves such acclaim. "The Social Network," or, the Facebook movie, is definitely a top choice for me this year, and not just because it's about Facebook; in fact, that's not a reason at all.

The reason I, and many others, loved this movie is because it gives the back story to how the website was created, which I found very interesting. I went into this movie thinking it was just going to be about Facebook. Well, it's not. It's a movie about friendship, betrayal, business and the entire college lifestyle.

What I really liked about this movie were the actors. The actors were spectacular in their performance. So good, in fact, that whenever I think of Mark Zuckerberg or Eduardo Saverin, the actors come to mind instead of the actual people. Another thing that I liked is that it was told through flashbacks instead of a regular storyline.

I suggest that, even if you don't have a Facebook account, you definitely see this movie if you already have not.

#2 Inception: This movie blew my mind. It had everything that makes a good film. Good actors, spectacular storyline and an end that just makes you want more! To be honest, when I first heard of this movie, I had no intention to see it whatsoever. But after many debates with my friends, they finally convinced me to see it…and I'm glad they did.

From the very beginning, the movie grabs your full attention and keeps it the entire time. There is never a dull moment when watching this movie. The few fight scenes that there are in this movie are done amazingly.

Christopher Nolan, the director, did an absolutely incredible job on this project that took eight years to write. This movie was also Nolan's second original piece since his 1998 piece "Following."

#1 Toy Story 3: The movie that really did it for me this year was "Toy Story 3." Being the loyal Disney/Pixar fan, I had been looking forward to this movie since its announcement in 2004-2005 and sure enough, it did not disappoint.

No matter what your age is, this movie touches all. It entices comedy, adventure, and some heart-touching scenes that can make even the toughest person shed a tear. Some argue that the third installment wasn't as good as the first or second, and I can understand that.

A movie's storyline can only be so good for so long, but I must say, this story just keeps getting better. As much as I loved this third installment, however, I really hope they refrain from making a fourth because this movie is a perfect way to end it all. This family movie teaches everyone the life lessons of friendship, hardship, and to simply put it, growing up.

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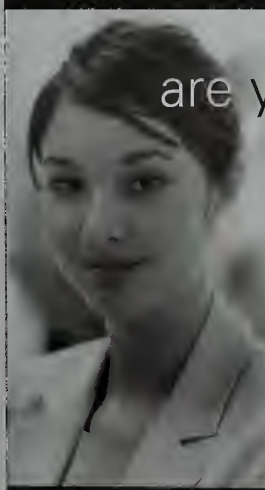

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Milwaukee Tech player tries to block Guard Celestra Warren as goes in for a lay-up at the Jan. 11 home game. *Photo by Kat Boehle*

Lady Wolves improving; conference record 6-2

BY CARLOS ENRIQUEZ
Sports Editor

The Joliet Junior College women's basketball team defeated Harper College 72-60 on Thursday, Jan. 27.

Guard Crystal Daniels led the team with 16 points, while freshmen guards Asbley Shelby and Keairra Collins each contributed 14 points for the Lady Wolves. Guard Celestra Warren rounded out the double-digit scorers with 13 points of her own.

The Lady Wolves were down by as many as 12 points in the first half, but the team quickly turned it around and dominated the rest of the game.

"The team played well and kept their composure when we were down double digit points," stated Head Coach Shaun Sanderson.

The victory brought JJC's record to 9-14, and the conference record to 6-2.

The team was just coming of a 79-61 loss to N4C Conference leading Rock Valley College on Tuesday, Jan. 25.

The lone sophomore on the squad—Daniels—led the Lady Wolves with 20 points. Guard Danasba Jenkins contributed with 11 points and 8 rebounds.

Despite a tough 0-10 start to the season, the Lady Wolves have been rolling as of late, winning nine of their last 12 games.

The coaching staff attributes the team's recent success to a number of reasons, including more consistent play on defense.

"Defense let us down in our losses," said Sanderson. "We had been out of position and not taking advantage of other team's weaknesses. The lack of consistency is what hurt us."

Along with a lack in consistent defense, inexperience and growing pains can be pointed to as a reason for their early struggles as 11 out of the 12 players on the roster are freshmen.

According to Sanderson, much of the team's success has come from a change in strategy.

The team began to simply change things and have more competitive practices.

"We just began to pick up the pace," said Sanderson. "They girls were doing less thinking and more reaction. The key to success has come from spreading the floor."

The team's first victory of the season has been the catalyst for the recent surge.

"Everything came together after that first win," said Sanderson. "Something clicked, and their confidence began to grow. The girls started to get comfortable with this level of basketball."

The Lady Wolves' most recent game was the third in a row on the road. They will travel for two more before finally returning to play at home against Madison College on Tuesday, Feb. 8.

"I personally like playing on the road," said Sanderson. "There are fewer distractions, and you get away from routine. It helps the girls bond since they have no one to root for them but themselves."

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Feb. 8 – 7 p.m. – vs. Madison College
Feb. 15 – 7 p.m. – vs. Wilbur Wright College
Feb. 17 – 7 p.m. – vs. Rock Valley College

Women's Basketball

Feb. 8 – 5 p.m. – vs. Madison College
Feb. 10 – 5 p.m. – vs. Kankakee Community College
Feb. 15 – 5 p.m. – vs. Wilbur Wright College
Feb. 17 – 5 p.m. – vs. Rock Valley College

SPORTS

Guard Brandon Redmond grabs a rebound at the Jan. 11 home game against Milwaukee Tech. *Photo by Kat Boehle*

Wolves win 18th straight game

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Photo Editor

The Joliet Junior College men's basketball team defeated Harper College by a score of 90-89 on Thursday, Jan. 27.

The victory brought the Wolves to 22-1 and 8-0 in conference play. It was also the team's 18th victory in a row.

"This was a great team win for us as we had numerous guys make plays and come up big," head coach Joe Kuhn said. "I really like our team defense and on offense we share the ball extremely well."

The Wolves realize how tough of an opponent Harper was.

"This was a great junior college basketball game," Kuhn said. "I thought Harper played a great game and they really shot the ball well. Our guys made plays down the stretch and we were fortunate to have the ball last."

The Wolves won the game in the last few seconds in what was a tightly contested game throughout.

"Harper shot around 50 percent from both 3-pointers and 2-pointers," said assistant coach Tyler Evans.

Sophomore forward Andy Spergen hit the game-winning shot in the final seconds—a tip-in.

"It was surreal to watch the ball go in and then hear the buzzer sound off," said sophomore center Max Chapman.

The team feels that it was the most exciting moment this season, although the tip-in was the second game-winning shot for the Wolves so far. The players believe getting the win also builds their confidence and momentum.

Bradley Elam and Cody Atherton get a special mention for hitting big shots and rising to the challenges of playing as a team.

The team is undefeated in conference play with a month to go left in the schedule.

They played Tuesday, Feb. 1, against College of DuPage, and are set to return home on Feb. 3 to face South Suburban College.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

BY CARLOS ENRIQUEZ

First-year guard Bradley Elam has evolved into an offensive force for the men's basketball team. The freshman out of Bad Davis, Ind., had a career game against Wright College on Thursday, Jan. 20, when he scored 22 points for the Wolves. Elam had another impressive game on Tuesday, Jan. 25, against Rock Valley College. He led the Wolves in scoring that game with 15 points, including four 3-point shots. Elam has had double digit scoring games in three out of his last four.

Bradley Elam

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

Keairra Collins has been providing consistency on offense for the Lady Wolves as of late. The freshman guard out of Joliet West was a key factor in the team's most recent victory against Harper College on Thursday, Jan. 27. Collins contributed 14 points in the 72-60 JJC victory. Collins had another good game against Wilbur Wright College on Thursday, Jan. 20, when she contributed 13 points in the Lady Wolves' win.

Keairra Collins

Joliet Junior College
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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2011 VOLUME 83 ISSUE 7

Canada geese hang out on the shoreline of JJC's campus lake. *Photo by Kat Boehle*

Board: no hike on tuition

BY KAT BOEHLE
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Students at Joliet Junior College will not be seeing an increase in tuition next year.

At the Feb. 8 JJC Board of Trustees meeting, the board voted against raising tuition by a vote of 5-2.

Last year, the board voted to raise tuition $9 for the fall 2010 semester in order to keep the 2010-11 budget balanced and pay for more student support services and staff as well as more full-time faculty.

When the proposal to raise tuition by $4 per credit hour came up at the Feb. 8 board meeting, Trustee Jeff May was the first to speak out against the tuition hike.

May said that with the state increasing income taxes by 2 percent, it has somewhat stabilized the state's financial situation. He said he believes JJC will receive the $4 million the state owes it.

May also said that although JJC may not see the money this year, he said that it will be seeing the money eventually, especially

See TUITION on page 3

Safe Zone hosts diversity discussion at JJC

BY ELSA BOORAS
Staff Writer

Safe Zone, JJC's program to reduce homophobia and heterosexism on campus, hosted a discussion titled "GLBTQ and Minority Communities" on Feb. 16, highlighting the difficulties of GLBTQ (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning) students of color who often face the decision of embracing either their ethnicity or their sexuality.

Guest speaker Carlos Serrato, Director of Multicultural Student Services at Lewis University, presented the event in hopes to "show compassion of homosexuality." Serrato mentioned the difficulty he underwent integrating homosexual awareness in schools, and is still in the process of doing so at Lewis.

"De Colores," a Latino documentary, informed the students and staff of injustices in the family with attention to religious and cultural values. The film explored the lives of both young and old, female and male—all victims of prejudice for being gay, and all seeking love and approval from their own families.

Following the presentation was a group discussion that encouraged others to share their own personal thoughts and experiences involving discrimination and the struggle for acceptance by family and peers.

Brandon Chemnju, a student, said the presentation had a "great energy and gave light to minorities (ethnicities) synonymous with gay culture." Chemnju also mentioned that he felt everyone's opinions were valued at the event.

The Safe Zone program at JJC includes training for individuals to serve as a resource referral (allies) for GLBTQ students. These allies clearly identify that their space is a safe place to talk about issues which impact GLBTQ students. Information about the Safe Zone program, as well as a list of Safe Zone allies at JJC, can be found at http://www.jjc.edu/about/committees/diversity/Pages/safe-zones.aspx.

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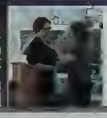
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EDITORIAL

Appreciate what goes on 'behind the scenes' at JJC

When the "Blizzard of 2011" hit our area on Wednesday, Feb. 2, the college made the decision to close at 4 p.m. and stay closed for the following two days. Those of us returning to class at Main Campus on that Friday witnessed large piles of shoveled snow on the sides of the roads and on the edges of the parking lots.

Of course, this meant that the roads and the parking lots were ready to receive our vehicles. The footpaths were cleared of snow, enabling us to reach the doors to campus buildings.

Though many of us likely took this clearing of snow for granted, the open roads, lots and pathways were the result of work done by the Roads & Grounds division of JJC's Facility Services department.

According to the college's website, the Roads & Grounds division maintains road care, landscaping, athletic fields and trash removal in addition to removing snow and ice on campus roads. If you think maintaining your own property is difficult (and we are not saying it is not), imagine what a job it must be to keep a college campus clear and accessible!

There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes at JJC (from our perspective as students). Sometimes it can seem like it's just the professors, the Office of Student Activities and a few other offices running the show around here, but there is actually a multitude of offices taking care of all sorts of administrative and logistical aspects of maintaining a community college.

The people in these operational departments do a lot of work every business day to make sure your college experience at JJC flows as smoothly as possible. It's likely not very pleasant for them to hear passing angry comments from students about how horrible parking is or how the construction projects are ticking them off.

Another division that should receive more appreciation than it does is the Custodial division of the Facility Services department. Often, the floors are trashed by 2 or 3 p.m., especially on days featuring a large event on the Concourse or the Bridge.

Have you ever thought about how dirty the campus would look the next day if the custodial staff took just one night off? Maybe it's time to start appreciating the work that does get done instead of complaining about the issues that aren't getting resolved as quickly as you would like.

If you want to broaden your appreciation for the many campus staff workers, read up a little about the college's Operational Departments on JJC's website. You'll gain a better understanding of all that goes into running an institution like a college. You might even be inspired to write a thank-you note to one of the offices.

To those of the JJC community who sent thank-you notes to the Roads & Grounds division, the Blazer salutes you for your commendable actions.

Our thanks also goes to the many Operational Departments of JJC for their work in making students' college experience more efficient and helpful.

The Super Bowl: What's with the hype?

BY CARLOS ENRIQUEZ
Sports Editor

Chances are that for some reason or another, you tuned in to watch the past Super Bowl at some point.

That is because the Super Bowl has an appeal to virtually every person in America.

Maybe it is your commitment to either one of the two teams playing, your love of sports, the commercials, the half time show or maybe you just wanted to see what all the hype is about—just as every year prior.

The truth is that the Super Bowl is more than just a sporting event. It has evolved into one of the marquee events for television, and the ratings prove it every single year.

According to the Nielsen Ratings, Super Bowl XLV was the most watched program in television history. Oh, by the way, that beat the record held by the previous year's game—Super Bowl XLIV.

To be honest, I have never completely bought into all the hype that comes with that event.

I am a huge sports fan, so I never miss the game itself. However, I always find something else to do during commercial breaks. Also, I don't think I have ever watched a half time show all the way through.

For the most part, the Super Bowl commercials tend to annoy me. I am not entertained by flashy, mostly chauvinistic humor.

Beer commercials that tend to ridicule men that don't meet the standards of society, along with objectifying women, tend to make me more upset than anything else.

It's hard enough for me to have to sit through the more tame commercials during the regular season.

I'll admit that in the past I have seen a few commercials that I found interesting or entertaining, but, for the most part, it seems to be the same recycled gimmicks year after year.

As far as the half time show, there has yet to be a musical act that I have found appealing to watch. From what I heard and read about the Black Eyes Peas' performance this year, I have no regrets for missing it again.

To be completely honest, I don't even understand the need for an eccentric, over-the-top musical performance during the Super Bowl.

I get my fill of musical performances during the Grammys, which are typically held the week after the Super Bowl.

I am pretty sure that if it hadn't been for my favorite football team, the Pittsburgh Steelers, being in the game, I might have not even tuned in to the game.

This might seem shocking to anyone that knows me, because I am not shy about my love of sports. However, the greed that the NFL owners and Players' Union have displayed in this economic climate is simply offensive.

The league is currently in discussions between the union and the owners for a new Collective Bargaining Agreement. If the two sides cannot put their egos aside and come to an agreement, then there would be a lockout—meaning no professional football for the 2011-12 season.

But who am I kidding? I'm a sucker for football. I would have at least checked the score. Even with my current anger with the league.

The fact of the matter is that the Super Bowl is more than just a sporting event. It is the single biggest entertainment event of the year.

And it is safe to say that I, along with most of America, will be watching next year's Super Bowl—assuming that there is football next year.

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Police Blotter

Students charged with assault

On Feb. 9, Seanina Hall and Robyn Adams of Joliet and Kierra Warfield of Bolingbrook were arrested and charged by the Joliet Junior College Police Department for assault in connetion with charges of verbal abuse, threats, harassment and intimidation. The three were also issued Student Code Referrals for making verbal threats and bodily harm, according to police.

According to police, Hall had harassed and intimidated her roommate in Centennial Commons on numerous occasions and had unauthorized guests that would harass and intimidate as well. The roomate has been moved to another apartment temporarily.

Hall, Adams and Warfield were issued $1000 I-Bonds and have a court date set for March 9, according to police.

Student charged

Antwonicqua Rogers of Joliet was arrested on Feb. 10 on charges of forgery for allegedly signing a JJC employee's name on a form to obtain $50 from the State of Illinois, according to police. Police said the money from the state would have been transferred to her Illinois Link card.

Student charged with hit-and-run

Karl Cosmen of Manhattan was arrested on Feb. 14 and charged with hitting two cars in New South Lot while attempting to park his car, according to police. A witness reported the incident to the Joliet Junior College Police Department and said that Cosmen had struck both cars, parked his own ear and then proceeded to go to class, according to police.

According to police, Cosmen was removed from his class and charged with a hit-and-run and given citations for Leaving Scene of Accident/Unattended Vehicle, and Failure to Reduce Speed to Avoid Accident.

Cosmen bonded out for the misdemeanor traffic violation and has been given a court date for March 10, according to police.

Student arrested twice, charged with trespassing

Frederick Patton, Jr. was arrested for a second time on Feb. 14 and charged with Criminal Trespass on Centennial Commons, according to police.

Police said Patton originally trespassed on Jan. 11 and was then arrested on Jan. 17 on charges of Criminal Trespass. The charges were initially dropped when he agreed not to return.

On Jan. 20, a JJC police officer was dispatched to check on the South lots regarding concerns about a trespasser who was believed to be Patton. A caller from Centennial Commons reported seeing Patton on Centennial property. However, JJCPD was unable to locate Patton and it was never confirmed whether it was him or not, according to police.

For the Feb. 14 incident, Patton was officially charged with Criminal Trespass onto Centennial property and was I-Bonded with a court date set for March 9.

STAR from page 8

StAR has a total of 470 students with disabilities such as ADHD, autism and impairment of vision, hearing and mobility. Not only does StAR help with said disabilities but they also assist students with temporary disabilities from surgery or injuries.

While every college is required to have assistance for students with disabilities because of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Klika says that JJC is one of the few colleges that offer special tutors that have certifications and experience with working with disabled students.

"Word is getting out there that there is support here," Klika said. "People from other districts are coming to JJC because of StAR."

The services that StAR offers to students include having text read to them, a private testing room where the student gets unlimited test time, resources for getting textbooks in Braille and even their own machine to print out syllabi and handouts in Braille.

For more information on StAR, you can call their office at (815) 280-2230 or visit their web page at www.jjc.edu/services-for-students/disability-services/pages/default.aspx.

TUITION from page 1

because of a bill that will allow the state to borrow money to make back-payments.

May then concluded by saying that even if the board is wrong on freezing tuition and does not make up the money this year, JJC could make up for the money next year and expressed that he would like to take the load off of students.

"I would like to make this year the year of the student," said May, "and give them a break from any increase in tuition."

Trustee Michael O'Connell also spoke out against raising the tuition this year.

Chairman of the Board Robert Wunderlich then spoke up for the tuition hike because of his concern *that the state has not been meeting* its obligation to the college financially and that state law limits the ability of community colleges to raise taxes.

If the state meets its full obligation, it would pay the college approximately $8 million for the current fiscal year.

JJC also still has lower tuition than many of its fellow community colleges and can cut tuition if ever necessary, Wunderlich added.

Public records show that community colleges across the state have raised tuition significantly over the past several years because of increased enrollment and the loss of state funding and tax revenues due to the economic downturn.

On Feb. 15, Heartland Community College of Normal, Ill. raised its tuition and fees $15 to make its total tuition cost $131 *per credit hour compared to JJC's* tuition and fees, which have been frozen at $103.

JJC nursing department holds first induction ceremony

BY KAT BOEHLE
Co-Editor-in-Chief

On Feb. 19, Joliet Junior College's Nursing Department held its inaugural induction ceremony for the Delta Chapter of the IOADN Alpha Delta Nu Nursing Honor Society.

Alpha Delta Nu is an honor society for nursing students that originated at Prairie State College 10 years ago. The college then went to talk to other nursing programs about introducing the society as well. JJC became the fourth chapter last semester, making them the Delta Chapter, said Mary Beth Luna, Department Chairperson of Nursing, Allied Health, and Emergeney Services.

Held on the bridge, the ceremony was opened by nursing professor and chapter co-adviser Shannon Jarot, who then introduced a special guest, JJC President Gena Proulx, who gave some opening remarks.

Luna also said that the nursing department will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of their first graduating class later this semester.

The requirements for a nursing student to become an Alpha Delta Nu member are holding a minimum 3.0 GPA and participating in a defined project during the provisional membership period.

The project that the inductees participated in for membership was International Negotiation Modules Project, a simulation program that promotes inclusion of international perspectives into the classroom across academic areas, said nursing professor and chapter co-adviser, Lynn Noell.

Directed by Berta Arias, JJC's international education coordinator, and Joyce Kaufman, the creator of the project, the students worked with the online facilities at the University of Maryland to complete the simulation project, entitled "Global Conflict Resolution."

"This is a national college project whereby students, through active leadership and simulation, learn negotiation skills and apply these skills in discussion, online, with students from other departments within JJC and with other schools of higher learning," Noell said.

The students represented the World Health Organization in Afghanistan in an online simulation and researched the culture, economy and politics of the country to write a proposal for reconstruction and development of post-war health care in Afghanistan.

"They searched for answers to supply the health care needs in Afghanistan," Noell said. "The project entailed a good amount of work on their part in addition to a heavy school workload."

The four inductees for the chapter were Class President Kelly Lovesky, Class Secretary Lariane Simington, Melanie Linehan and Roberta Spencer.

Nursing professor and chapter co-adviser Danielle Lisiecki introduced each of the inductees for them to talk about why they chose nursing as a career.

"When people ask me why I chose nursing, I tell them that I didn't choose nursing," said Lovesky, the first to speak. "Nursing chose me."

Linehan spoke of how she had always wanted to be a nurse as a child and when she was in labor with her child, she felt that she could have done a better job as a nurse than the attending nurse did.

Simington said that as a child, she has always been drawn to helping others and when she and her brothers would go to the store, while her brothers would run to the toy section, she would run to the first aid aisle to pick up new gadgets for her own personalized first aid kit.

Spencer was unable to attend the ceremony. The inductees were then given a certificate and pin for their official membership.

Noell is excited to say that over 30 students will be eligible for induction next semester. She also said that for future projects for would-be members, the chapter is planning to do something more community-based.

Photo by Kat Boehle

Danielle Lisiecki puts pin on class secretary Lariane Simington at induction ceremony.

SOME 'SOUL' ARRIVES AT JJC

Students learn more about past musical stylings and artists

BY KELSI BERTHEAUME
Staff Writer

The majority of the Joliet Junior College community may not know what Soul Music is, but the presentation at the Brown Bag Lecture on Feb. 17 shed some light on the subject.

Speaker Geoff Rusch from the college's Media Services department explained that Soul Music is a music genre that comes from the United States, specifically from African-American experiences. It also combines the elements of gospel music, rhythm and blues.

The two major record labels that helped produce Soul Music were Motown and Stax. Originally, Motown was called Tamia and was the first African-American-owned record label.

The first hit record Motown had was Barrett Strong's "Money (That's What I Want)" when it peaked R&B #2 in 1959. It was covered by The Beatles in 1963.

In 2005 Motown merged with Universal Records to become Universal Motown, so they are still around today, but only for publishing out to other singers.

Some very well-known Motown artists are: The Supremes, M. Gaye & T. Terrell, The Temptations, Gladys Knight & The Pips, Smokey Robinson, The Four Tops, The Jackson Five and Stevie Wonder.

Some examples of Motown music are "Where Did Our Love Go" by The Supremes, "Ain't Too Proud to Beg" by The Temptations and "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" by Marvin Gaye & Tammi Terrell.

Stax was another record label that started at the same time as Motown did. Stax records were founded in 1959 by Jim Stewart and his sister Estelle Axton as Satellite Records. Their recordings had a distinctive "deep" sound.

The label changed its name to Stax in 1961, when a distribution deal was made with Atlantic records. The partnership with Atlantic lasted until 1967, when Atlantic was purchased by Warner Bros. When Stax went to renegotiate, Stewart found out he had lost all rights to the early masters because of contract oversight.

In May of 1968, Stewart sold Stax to Paramount Pictures and his sister left the company. Stewart stayed on in an auxiliary role, continuing to stay with the label until he and Al Bell brought it back in 1970. Despite success, Stewart filed bankruptcy in 1975.

There were also many hit artists for Stax, including Carla Thomas, Booker T. & the MGs, Otis Redding, Sam & Dave, Isaac Hayes, The Staple Singers and The Dramatics.

Stax hit "Gee Whiz (Look at His Eyes)," by Carla Thomas, reached the top ten on both Pop and R&B charts. Thomas also teamed up with Otis Redding in 1965 to produce the album "King & Queen," which produced several hits for Stax.

Other hit songs were "Green Onions" by Booker T. & the MGs in 1962, and "I've been Loving You Too Long" and "Respect" by Otis Redding.

The next Brown Bag Lecture will be on "Gender and the Media," featuring sociology and anthropology professor Roya Falahi-Kbaraghani as speaker. The lecture will be held March 3 at 12 p.m. in room J-0006.

News Briefs:

New Student Trustee sought

Student Government is seeking a new Student Trustee for the 2011-2012 academic year. The term would begin April 15 and end on April 15, 2012.

The Student Trustee sits on the Board of Trustees and works closely with administrators, Student Government and state-wide committees as well as represents the students' voice.

A minimum of a 3.0 GPA is required as well as a minimum of nine credit hours earned at the time of petitioning. The Student Trustee must be registered for six credit hours each semester of the term and be in good standing with the college with no Code of Conduct violations.

If interested, students should stop by the OSA office, H-1016 and pick up a booklet beginning Feb. 17th. Online elections will be held on April 6-7, 2011.

New graduation application deadline

Student intending to graduate in May 2011 must apply for graduation by March 25. Applications can be generated from the JJC website at http://www.jjc.edu/ACADEMICS/GRADUATION/Pages/apply-for-graduation.aspx.

History professor organizes trip to Europe

Adjunct history professor Heinz-Dietrich Suppan is planning a trip to Europe for July 2012. This trip will include Germany, the Czech Republic, Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Paris.

An informational meeting will be held Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. at the Marquette Academy in Ottawa, Ill., or call (815) 433-4635 for more information.

Transfer fair for education majors

The Elementary Teachers of Tomorrow Club is hosting a university transfer fair for students studying elementary, early childhood or special education. Representatives from colleges and universities throughout Illinois will be present.

The fair will be held Feb. 25 from 12 to 2 p.m. on the Bridge.

"Jail and Bail" for charity

Student Government is sponsoring the Jail and Bail program to raise money for charity. The charity for this year is the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana.

Anyone in the JJC community can be "arrested" for a $5 charge and a designated amount of "bail." The "arrested" party must raise his or her own "bail" by March 4, or else be "jailed" at the Student Government office. Arrests can be made until Feb. 28.

Culinary Competition Team wins gold

The JJC Culinary Competition Team won first place and took home the gold medal at a completion in Ohio on Jan. 29.

Student team members include Aaron Guajardo III, Michael Shannon, David Basile, Robert Bclanski and Laura Korte. They competed under the direction of Chef Kyle Richardson, Chef Tim Bucci and Assistant Chef Suzette Simpson.

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Black History Month

Three events will wrap up JJC's celebration of Black History Month during the next week.

The History of Black Barbershops

On Wednesday, Feb. 23, a presentation will be made on the Center Bridge from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on "The History of Black Barbershops." Those in attendance will learn about the role of the barbershop in the African-American community.

In addition to the presentation, discounted haircuts will also be offered.

The event is sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs and Brother 2 Brother.

African Bazaar

On Thursday, Feb. 24, JJC will host its 10th annual African Bazaar as part of the college's celebration of Black History Month.

The African Bazaar brings together vendors of African, Caribbean and African-American art, jewelry, clothing, accessories and books. The items are made available for purchase.

The bazaar will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the C-Concourse on the Main Campus.

This event is sponsored by JJC Project Achieve/Student Support Services.

National TRIO Day

JJC will celebrate National TRIO Day on Monday, Feb. 28.

National TRIO Day is a day of reflection and action that focuses on the needs of disadvantaged youth and celebrates the greater access to higher education for all.

TRIO leaders and the U.S. Congress have proclaimed Feb. 28 as National TRIO Day.

The event is sponsored by Project Achieve.

Restoration project moves forward

Two projects designed to stabilize both shoreline and lake

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
KAT BOEHLE

As part of the college master plan, Joliet Junior College is restoring its natural areas with the Ecological Restoration Project and lake project.

Because the Illinois region used to be prairie and has since been invaded by foreign species, with the exception of a few prairie sites in the state, the Ecological Restoration Project involves clearing out the invasive species that have taken over the natural areas and planting native prairie plants.

The lake project started in the fall of 2009 when they took the nutrient rich-mud off the bottom of the lake in a process called dredging, and put it in the agricultural fields. In addition, they also installed bioswale filters in several locations that filter the water that comes off the agricultural fields and the parking lots.

"These two projects are dovetailing to stabilize the shore with emergent plants," said biology professor Andy Neill, who is coordinating the Ecological Restoration Project.

For the newest part of the lake project, the department will be installing "biologs," large log-shaped objects made out of coconut fibers and wrapped with metal mesh. Aquatic plants will be planted into the biologs and the logs will be placed in the water with stakes to hold them in place, said Virginia Piekarski, who is overseeing the lake project.

The biolog is there to control bank erosion in the meantime while it also helps the aquatic plants get started in the community, Piekarski said.

She also added that because of the feeding preference of the local muskrats, they will be surrounding the aquatic plants with chicken wire for the next few years until the plants are well established and can handle predators.

"These two projects are dovetailing to stabilize the shore with emergent plants."
Biology professor Andy Neill

Something else that the department will be doing in the near future is to improve the current foot paths through the natural areas and add some more foot paths.

They will also be looking at the current tree communities in the natural areas and looking to add more native trees, such as oaks, and looking to continue to clear out the invasive species, specifically the blackthorns.

All photos represent different views of the JJC campus lake.

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Upcoming Events

African Bazaar: Feb. 24 – D-F Concourse
Student Talent Showcase: Feb. 25 – 6:30 p.m. – Cafeteria
Karaoke: March 1 – 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. – Center Bridge
Wellness Presentation: "Men and Depression": March 2 – 12 p.m. – J-0006 & J-0007
Brown Bag Lecture: "Gender and the Media": March 3 – 12 p.m. – J-0006
Vet Tech Open House: March 5 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – V Building
Stress Relief Day: March 7 – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Center Bridge
Mardi Gras Celebration: March 8 – 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. – Center Bridge
Hypnotist Fred Winters: March 9 – 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Center Bridge
JJC Pow Wow: March 12 – 12 to 9 p.m. – Gym, Concourse, Bridge, Cafeteria

'Snowpocalypse' aftermath affects JJC community

By Gina Capcnigro

Staff Writer

Cars stranded in ditches. Snow drifts as much as 10 feet high. Schools everywhere forced to close. These are but some of the remnants left behind by the Blizzard of 2011, more commonly referred to as the "Snowpocalypse."

This blizzard took a massive toll on Joliet Junior College, forcing the shutdown of its campuses and centers Feb. 2 and 3.

"Closing the campus was a good idea because it's crucial not to risk the safety of the students," said Professor Andrew Neill, a biology instructor at JJC. Neill also mentioned that the storm caused major setbacks with his classes, especially those meeting twice a week. "Everything will fall back into rhythm soon enough," said Neill, "and we will do so without compromising learning."

Students seemed generally pleased at the thought of a "snow day."

"It was nice to have those two days off," said first-year student Brad Werner. "I used those days to get caught up on homework."

Although road conditions improved following the storm, icy spots persisted for several days afterward for students driving to school.

"I was in the middle of a turn, and my car slid on a patch of ice and I ended up on the curb," said Werner. "There was minimal body damage."

The blizzard has passed, but there will likely be more snow and ice on the roads before the winter is over. Drivers should take caution and keep necessary items like jumper cables, kitty litter and a blanket in their cars in case the worst should happen. Lower visibility and slick road surfaces require drivers to travel at slower speeds and with even more awareness of their surroundings than usual.

The college's Facility Services department will continue to clear the campus roads and parking lots of snow and ice for the remainder of the winter.

Tech department

JJC hires new welding instructor

By Erin Cady

Staff Writer

The Technical Department recently hired their newest welding instructor, Greg Foster. With more than 25 years of experience in welding, Foster is enjoying the welcome from the department.

Foster teaches four welding classes that involve all skill levels and all of the various welding processes. Before teaching at JJC, he spent the past ten years working as a full-time adjunct welding instructor at four different community colleges in Michigan; Monroe County, Wayne County, Macomb and Owens. At three of those schools, Foster developed and conducted training sessions in addition to teaching.

Describing the JJC community as "close-knit," Foster says interacting with his students in this type of environment is one of his favorite parts about teaching at JJC.

The son of a maintenance welder, Foster was exposed to the trade and its tools at a very young age. He learned the basics from his father, and later on in life, Foster bid on a welding position where he worked. Welding has always been a part of his life. "I didn't choose welding as a career; it chose me," he said.

Foster has never really considered another profession because he loves what he does, but if he had to pick another job, it would be helping others in need. His favorite aspect of teaching welding is the opportunity he gets to share his experience with students in order for them to improve and master their skills.

Given the chance to persuade students to take his class, Foster would entice students by explaining, "Right now this country is in need of 500,000 welders, and that number is growing due to more people retiring at a steady rate. Welding engineers graduate with a four-year degree starting out at $60,000 a year."

Regarding his personal life, Foster says sorry to Blackhawks fans. He is a Red Wings fan from Michigan. The majority of Foster's spare time is spent with his family.

Foster is enthusiastic about welding and instructing at JJC. His goal is to enhance and grow the college's welding program both academically and in the corporate community, while maintaining primary focus on the students in the program.

StAR program participation growing with enrollment

By Kat Boehle

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Due to the recent recession, enrollment at colleges and universities, including Joliet Junior College, has been increasing. In addition to this, the number of students using JJC's Students Accommodations and Resources has also had a dramatic increase, according to StAR Manager Jacque Klika.

StAR is JJC's academic resource that aids students with documented disabilities with many resources, including 11 tutors, a counselor and an intake specialist.

Carol Smith originally created the program in 1996 in response to the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990. Klika took over in 2007 where she has since been observing the steady increase in students using StAR.

StAR's number of tutors has been increasing and they have been adding work hours for the tutors that they already have, Klika said. Their part-time sign language interpreters have also doubled in the last five years and the students requiring these interpreters has nearly tripled.

Students with autism have almost doubled in the past year from 17 students in spring 2010 to 32 students in the fall semester. Klika believes this is not necessarily because more people with autism are going to college, but because of the increase in diagnoses.

"Autism has been more identified in recent years," said Klika. "20 years ago, you didn't see students with autism."

See STAR on page 3

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A 'Little Shop' is coming to JJC

BY KAT BOEHLE
Co-Editor-in-Chief

For their annual musical, the Joliet Junior College Fine Arts department will be showing the award-winning "Little Shop of Horrors" from March 3 to 6.

The musical was originally adapted from the 1960 black comedy movie of the same title and is about a florist shop worker who raises a plant that feeds on humans.

Director Nicki Blowers says that she originally chose the play when she asked Music Director David Nuccio what musical would interest him most. They both agreed on "Little Shop of Horrors" because of the rock 'n' roll music and because it is a dark comedy B-movie, something unique to the JJC stage.

"It's a show I've always liked," Blowers said. "It's like a Greek tragedy with the doo-wop girls functioning as a Greek chorus with always being present."

Blowers said that a unique aspect to the production is Audrey, the carnivorous plant. Because Audrey is growing throughout the play, there will be four different puppets for the character from a small potted plant to a giant plant that takes up a whole wall that takes three puppeteers to function.

The production will be featuring a diverse group of actors with theater students, music students, alumni and community members.

Blowers notes the dedication of the actors. During one of the rehearsals she had to leave early, yet—even though they did not have to—the cast continued to rehearse with the supervision of another theater instructor.

"It shows the level of dedication of the actors and how much they care about the production," Blowers said. "It's one of the best casts I've ever had."

Blowers said that because the musical sells out every year, she estimates that they will be completely sold out the week of Feb. 28. Friday night's show has already sold out.

In addition to the production, for their musical every year, the JC Players and Epicurean Club collaborate to put together a Dinner Theater for the Friday night show, with a variety of food prepared by the Epicurean Club.

Tickets are on sale for $8 to the general public; $5 for JJC faculty, non-JJC students, and senior citizens; and $3 for JJC students. They can be purchased at the box office in K-building, or by calling 815-280-2200 where they are now accepting debit and credit cards.

Photo courtesy of JJC website

Don't 'Just go with it'

BY RYAN MILLER
Production Manager

The latest romantic comedy around, "Just go with it," almost makes Adam Sandler look as if he is signing onto movies without even looking at the script anymore.

This movie stars Sandler playing a lovelorn bachelor who was heartbroken the day of his wedding day. The rest of the story goes with him being single for many years, picking up loose women by wearing a wedding ring and making up convoluted stories about his fake wife.

Some number of years later, he finally meets a girl named Palmer, played by Brooklyn Decker, at a friend's party.

After a night of being with each other, she finds his wedding ring in his pocket. As a cover-up, he says he is currently undergoing a divorce, while he then persuades his office assistant Katherine, played by Jennifer Aniston, to pretend to be his ex-wife.

From there the plot goes a little haywire and becomes somewhat predictable. Basically, once you get past the first 30-45 minutes of the film, you know how it's going to end.

This movie was not terrible, but it was not great either. It's in that grey area where there were funny parts that could get a laugh here and there, but the plot and overall storyline seemed somewhat lacking. There was so much that could have been done with this movie, but sadly, was not applied.

From the start of the movie, you can pretty much tell what's going to happen. The acting wasn't bad at all, even the two child roles (Katherine's kids) did a decent job. It felt like the story dragged on longer than it should have, but, if the plot and overall storyline was tweaked (well, overhauled actually), then the length would have justified the film. But sadly, the movie left me squirming in my seat just wanting it to end already.

Overall, the movie was just a little under average. Although the storyline had big holes in it, there were parts where I found myself laughing and enjoying the scene…for a short period of time. It's definitely no "50 First Dates" or "Mr. Deeds," but it's worth seeing if you don't pay the full $8.75. I'm going to have to give this movie 2 ½ stars.

Photo courtesy of Sony Pictures

Adam Sandler and Brooklyn Decker star in new romantic comedy.

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Miller's Movies: Top Ten Superhero Movies

Christian Bale stars as Batman in the 2008 release "The Dark Knight." *Photo Courtesy of Warner Brothers*

BY RYAN MILLER
Production Manager

10. The Punisher: This movie is one of the few hero movies where the hero shows no mercy and takes justice into his own hands in his own way. He is really not even defined as a hero; he is defined as a vigilante. Special agent Frank castle, played by Thomas Jane, had the perfect *life*. But when his entire family is murdered by a crime lord and his partners, he no longer has an identity and becomes a new kind of vigilante.

He goes out and serves as the jury, judge and executioner and takes no prisoners against those who have done him wrong. This movie was very action-packed and pretty well-done when it came down to the plot. Most of the acting was pretty well-done by the majority of the cast. Many view the movie as sub-par, which is understandable. The actors aren't really all that memorable, but do a decent job.

9. The Incredible Hulk: "The Incredible Hulk" stars Edward Norton as Bruce Banner in this remake of the Hulk franchise. The plotline takes place after Bruce Banner gets hit with the gamma bomb and tries to cure his 'anger' problem and, at the same time, flees from the American government. As soon as Banner is close to finding a cure, a new problem comes along. Emil Blonsky, played by Tim Roth, finds the Hulk serum and uses it for his own maniacal purposes, turning into The Abomination.

When I first saw this movie, I was relieved that it didn't have anything to do with the first movie, "Hulk" (2003). This installment of the franchise was by far a lot better. The CGI and graphics were much more bearable, along with a fantastic cast who all played their parts extremely well. I was very sad to hear, however, that Edward Norton would not be playing the part of Bruce Banner in the 2012 "Avenger" movie.

8. X2—United: This movie is packed with a great cast. Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart, Ian McKellen and Alan Cumming, just to name a few, really give you the full effect of their characters in a great performance. The special effects may look average, maybe even a little below average now, but back in 2003 they were considered very well.

The plot continues from the first movie with Magneto locked away in a plastic holding cell. Mystique, in the meantime, tries to figure out and executes a plan to free Magneto. As for the X-men, they are occupied with being hunted down by the U.S. government and freeing Professor X from a secret government facility run by a scientist named William Stryker, played by Brian Cox, whose goal is to find out more about Cerebro and the mutant school.

7. Spiderman 2: Following the plot of the first movie, Peter Parker, played by Tobey McGuire, returns in this web-slinging adventure. After becoming an icon for his beloved New York City, he struggles between his life as Peter Parker and Spiderman.

A new villain that is introduced in this movie is Dr. Octopus, whom I personally liked more than the Green Goblin from the first movie. Overall, the plot and storyline of this movie was very good and interesting to watch. It has enough balance of action and drama to create a good storyline.

The acting is done very well, as it was in the first one. The reason for favoring this one over the first "Spiderman" is because I think that it has a better story, along with involving the villain more. The special effects were another contributor to why I liked this movie more. Overall, it's just a good superhero movie that should be remembered as such.

6. Fantastic Four: I thought this movie was really fun. It took the concept of the superhero perspective and for the most part, followed its comic book origins, unlike some of the movies mentioned before. I know a lot of you are probably disagreeing that this movie shouldn't be above Spiderman 2 or X2—United.

I think it does because of its CGI effects, storyline and overall great acting. Each actor does a great job in bringing out the nature of their character. The villain was even done very well. This is a movie that has a good balance of fun as well as storyline.

5. The Incredibles: It's probably not a superhero film that first comes to mind for most people, but for me, I consider it a legitimate superhero movie. One aspect that this movie has that makes it appeal to me is that it's not based off an actual comic book; it's a completely new story.

Of course, another reason that this movie made it on my top ten is because of my love for Pixar, but that is not even my main reason. As always, the animation was top-notch. Along with that, the plot and storyline were easy to follow and very entertaining. These two aspects are what Pixar always comes shining through with and is what I always expect from Pixar. The fact that this movie is so original with characters and storyline assures its spot as my number five.

4. Watchman: This movie was very intense. For those of you who are unfamiliar with it, here's some break-down information: The setting is 1985 in a universe where the U.S. government has cracked down on hero vigilantes. However, when one of the masked veterans is murdered, his ex-colleagues reunite to prevent their own demise.

As they find out more and more about the death of their friend, the more they discover deeper and darker intentions. This movie was stunning. The visual effects and CGI was so good and clear. The storyline itself is really dark, but interesting. Another really good aspect about this movie is that it follows its comic book version really closely; more so than any other movie on here really.

The reason that statement is so important is because they incorporated the entirety of the comic into the movie (it was only a twelve-issue comic book), thus rendering its timeframe more than acceptable; its length was both needed and justified. All in all, I really just loved this movie, both for its amazing plotline and action sequences.

3. Batman Begins: It shouldn't surprise anyone that this movie had to be on my top ten. When I first saw this movie, I fell in love with it. I was so happy that Christopher Nolan did what he did and didn't follow the exact comic book story.

He is probably the only person who could pull this off and do as good as he did with it. Along with great action sequences, there is an amazing cast which includes Christian Bale (Bruce Wayne/ Batman), Michael Caine (Alfred), Liam Neeson (Henri Ducard), Morgan Freeman (Lucius Fox) and Gary Oldman (Inspector Gordon). It's like the ultimate cast with the ultimate storyline.

Another aspect I liked was the choice of villains. When I first heard that scarecrow was the main villain, I was skeptical at first, seeing as no other Batman movie had used him. But, of course, there was no disappointment at all. All I have to say is, if you still have yet to see this movie, see it as soon as humanly possible.

2. Iron Man: Now, it was a hard choice to determine which was going to be my number two, either "Batman Begins" or "Iron Man." Clearly, I went with "Iron Man." The reason I chose "Iron Man" was because it involves more common conflicts related to the present.

I'm not saying that "Batman" doesn't; I'm just saying that "Iron Man" does more, i.e. involving the war in Iraq. The movie somewhat revolves around its comic book origin, which involves Tony Stark, played by Robert Downey Jr., being kidnapped and ultimately being Iron Man. It doesn't follow the comic exactly, but it does no harm to the film at all. The special effects are quite impressive along with the action scenes it possesses.

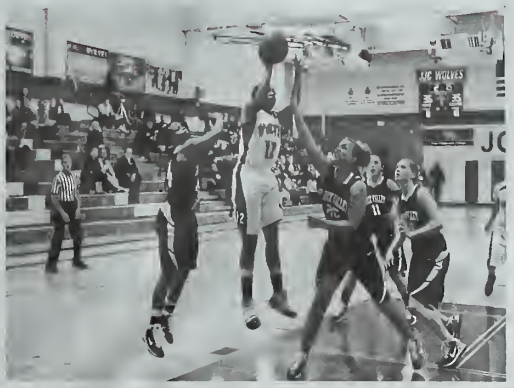
The plot and storyline development, I thought, was especially good. However, one thing that they could have had more of to make this movie even better was involving the central villain, Obadiah Stane (played by Jeff Bridges). The actors and actresses in this movie were another thing I thought added to the film that made it so great.

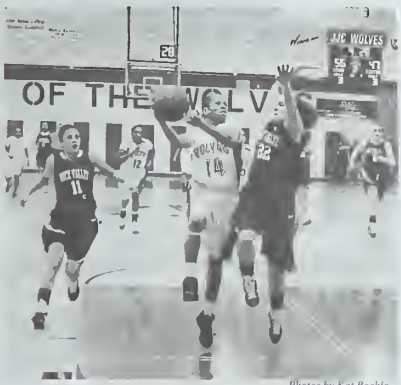
The cast of the film seemed to work perfectly together, each supported the other perfectly. However, as good of a movie it was, it does not compare to my number one pick.

1. The Dark Knight: If you thought that I had forgotten about this movie, you're dead wrong. This movie was simply the perfect superhero movie and should be the model for all other superhero movies. It shouldn't come as much of a shock, seeing as "Batman Begins" was so good.

It would seem that the only person who could outdo Christopher Nolan in making superhero movies is himself, to simply put it. There are so many good scenes within this movie and does the first movie so much justice. The acting was, again, phenomenal, especially with the addition of the beloved actor Heath Ledger, who played the Joker.

Along with acting, the overall look and storyline were just as equally brilliant. This movie has such an amazing balance of action, drama, thriller and even a little comedy that makes it flow so perfectly. The special effects were just as equally incredible, especially introducing the bat-cycle. This movie is so memorable and so good that you just have to watch it over and over again; and if you haven't seen it, you need to put down this newspaper, rent it and watch it now!





Photos by Kat Boehle

At left: Forward Dominque Carr dodges Rock Valley guard. At right: Guard Crystal Daniels pushes past Rock Valley player at recent home game.

Strong going into playoffs

Conference performance key to Lady Wolves' season

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Photo Editor

The Joliet Junior College women's basketball team has been on a tear, going 15-5 during their last 20 games.

The team ended the regular season winning their final four games, including a rout over the Rock Valley Golden Eagles on Thursday, Feb. 17. The final score was 83-66.

The Lady Wolves' victory was a seen as a bit of a vengeance after losing a heart-breaker to Rock Valley earlier in the year.

"The girls had this game circled since we lost to them," said Head Coach Shaun Sanderson. "It was a revenge game for the girls. We needed to protect our house and we did. Our execution, our hard work and focus was a major factor in our victory."

After getting off to a 0-10 start, the team has gone on a phenomenal run, finishing with a 15-15 overall record and with a conference record of 12-2.

"The team needs to show up consistently," said Sanderson, referring to the Lady Wolves' style of play. "Balanced scoring helped us to a victory tonight," Sanderson said. "We took care of the ball and shot the ball well."

The Lady Wolves have grown together as a team this season through the hard times and the good, and are looking forward to the playoffs.

"From the heart-breaking beginning of the season to the sweet satisfying victories of late, each game is played with intensity," said Sanderson. "We have momentum and talent, and how we have played and learned through the season helped us."

The season turn-around puts the Lady Wolves in good shape heading into the playoffs, earning a first-round bye.

Sanderson expects a number two or three seed based on the team's record and how the girls have played.

The Lady Wolves will begin their playoff run on Thursday, Feb. 24. It will be for the Region IV Semifinals.

Photos by Kat Boehle

At left: Guard Crystal Daniels goes in uncontested for a layup. At right: Guard Keairra Collins soars over Rock Valley defender for a score.

SPORTS

Guard Cody Atherton drives hard to the hoop.

Photo by Kat Boehle

Wolves live up to expectations

By Carlos Enriquez
Sports Editor

The Joliet Junior College men's basketball team has so far lived up to the expectations that came following a National Championship last year.

The team has also been a model of consistency this season, boasting an overall record of 27-3.

The team ended the regular season on a relatively disappointing note, losing 69-66 to the very tough opponent, South Suburban College, on Saturday, Feb. 19.

The game came down to the final seconds, but all the fouls the Wolves committed during the game came back to haunt them.

Head coach John Kuhn and his team remain confident heading into the playoffs, perhaps because of how close they played South Suburban—ranked no. 1 in NJCAA Division It basketball.

The Wolves remain ranked no. 2 overall in Division III basketball.

With their recent 68-47 victory against Rock Valley College on Thursday, Feb. 17, the Wolves clinched their second N4C Conference Championship in a row, and their sixth under head coach John Kuhn.

Sophomore forward Andy Supergan led the Wolves in scoring with 14 points. Sophomore center Max Chapman contributed with 11 points and 7 rebounds. Freshman guard Bradley Elam bad 10 points and sophomore guard Justin Reed eamed 9 points.

"We had a slow start, but eventually the energy kicked in," Kuhn said about the game. "To win the conference championship outright is a really good achievement."

The team holds a conference record of 13-1.

The team's only toss to a conference rival eame Saturday, Feb. t2, against Triton College.

"Both teams left everything they had on the floor and in the end Triton made a couple of plays to win it," said Kuhn.

Along with being the first conferenee loss, the 90-85 overtime loss to Triton also snapped the Wolves' 21-game win streak. That winning streak is now the longest in school history.

Supergan and freshman guard Da'Jon Lewis each led the team with 21 points, and sophomore guard Brandon Redmond had 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Wolves.

The Wolves will have a first-round bye in the playoffs, so their first game will be on Wednesday, Feb. 23. It will be for the Region IV semifinals held at Rock Valley.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

By Carlos Enriquez

Sophomore center Max Chapman had 11 points against Rock Valley on Thursday, Feb. 17. Chapman also contributed 10 points against College of DuPage on Friday, Feb. 11. However, along with his scoring ability, Chapman has been able to provide leadership and experience for the defending national champion Wolves. The 6-foot-8 center out of Blair, Neb., has cemented himself into the role of one of the team leaders and will be counted on for the Wolves' upcoming playoff run.

Max Chapman

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

Lady Wolves guard Celestra Warren was recently named Region 4 Player of the Week. Warren has been dominant for Joliet Junior College as of late. The freshman out of Thornwood had a fantastic game on Friday, Feb. 11. In that game she posted 19 points and 11 rebounds against College of DuPage. Warren also had a dominant performance the previous night against Kankakee Community College, scoring 16 points, handing out 2 assists and collecting 11 rebounds.

Celestra Warren

Joliet Junior College

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See review and photos on page 6

Chris Cummings (right) stars as Seymour in JJC's production of "Little Shop of Horrors." *Photo by Kat Boehle*

JJC hosts seminar on men and depression

BY ELSA BOORAS
Staff Writer

On March 2, JJC's Holistic Wellness program, the Office of Student Activities and the Counseling Office put on a production concerning the subject of "Men and Depression." Eric Dutt, JJC counselor, began by presenting the group with information on gender-specific depression.

Depression is a serious medical condition that affects the body, mood and thoughts. Dutt explained that reportedly seven percent of men suffer from the condition, but most men are less likely than women to seek help, for fear of costing them respect from friends and family.

People with a depressive illness cannot merely pull themselves out of it. With that being said, Dutt advised the

See DEPRESSION on page 3

Relay For Life bake sale raises $350

BY RACHEL STELLA
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The JJC Honors Program and the Alpha Lambda Phi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa have once again joined forces to form the Relay For Life team "Smartie Pants 4 a Fighting Chance."

The members have been active in fundraising for the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life event. The team's two-day bake sale alone sold $350 worth of goodies.

"[That is] quite impressive, considering items were either one dollar or two for a dollar," said Lindsey Kelderhouse, team co-captain.

The sale, held March 1 and 2, capitalized on the karaoke and Comfort Zone events put on by the Office of Student Activities.

"The sweets got people's attention," said Kelderhouse. "As soon as we mentioned the proceeds went to the American Cancer Society, people were more apt to buy some of the items."

Relay For Life is an overnight event that celebrates cancer survivors, remembers loved ones and raises money to support the fight against cancer. Teams of eight to 15 members gather with tents and sleeping bags with the goal of keeping one person on the track at all times.

The event will be held March 25 and 26 at the Lewis University Fieldhouse in Romeoville.

"I'm so excited," said team co-captain Allison Wysock. "I've done [Relay For Life] for the past two years at Joliet West High School, and this is my first year at JJC."

For now, the team members are working toward their individual goals of raising $100 each. Their next step will be getting ready for the Relay For Life event, during which fundraising efforts will continue.

"Some of us work at pizza places, so we're getting pizza and pop donated that we're going to sell," said Wysock. "We're also making and selling bracelets, and having raffles and face painting."

About 10 people are members of the team so far, and Wysock says there is room for more.

"Anyone is welcome to join; it's not just for Phi Theta Kappa and Honors Program members," said Wysock.

"It was a lot of fun," said Kelderhouse, speaking of her involvement with Relay For Life in 2010. "It's a great opportunity to get involved in the community. But it's a good cause—that's the main reason I'm involved."

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EDITORIAL

Have a 'constructive' spring break

The vast majority (if not all) of us is looking forward with anticipation to spring break. A few days to take the focus off of homework and school obligations are most welcome. With this extra time, you can pick up more hours at work, clean up the house, get work done on the car or just relax and have some fun.

There really are many ways in which you could spend your spring break week, but before you veg out watching cartoons or grab the keys and rush off to California, make sure you're thinking responsibly about your recreational choices.

First and foremost, spring break is a time to refresh yourself—in preparation for the rest of the semester. As much as you might wish it were so, school is NOT out for the summer just yet. We still have several weeks to go, and most course requirements are only going to get more difficult from now on.

This shouldn't discourage you, but it should remind you to be wise when making your decisions about how to spend your spring break.

As unappealing as it might sound, if you're struggling in any courses, it's advisable to use at least a little of your spring break time to review any areas in which you're having trouble.

Even if you're doing well in school, you should keep your times of recreation and refreshment physically and mentally constructive.

What do we mean by "constructive?" Well, here are some examples: Constructive—taking a walk. NOT constructive—overdosing on ice cream. Constructive—trying a new recipe. NOT constructive—eating fast food every day.

We suggest avoiding any illegal activity, for starters. We also advise avoiding any unhealthy or unwise activity. Remember—think "constructive," "uplifting," "clarifying" or whatever word gives you the general idea.

Here's an extra challenge: In addition to refreshing yourself wisely and constructively, think of a way to uplift others around you.

Need ideas? Donate a requested item to the Bookstore's supply drive. Join a Relay For Life team or financially support a team member. If you're thinking about adopting a pet, check out what the Vet Tech program has to offer.

Don't limit yourself to JJC-related opportunities. There are creative ways brighten another's day while having some healthy fun of your own.

Refresh yourself. Refresh someone else. When school starts again, you'll feel that much better for having done so. Have a good spring break, Joliet Junior College.

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The importance of pi and why it deserves to be celebrated

BY KAT BOEHLE
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Coming up on March 14 is the worldwide-celebrated holiday known as Pi Day (3.14, 3/14, get it?). A holiday that huge science and math geeks, like me, are typically the only ones who actually know it is happening.

Yes, I know the majority of people think of pi as that evil mathematical constant that we had to deal with when estimating the area or circumference of a circle, but have you ever thought about what the world would be like if the value of pi was never estimated?

Just in case you don't know, the value of pi is the ratio of any circle's circumference to its diameter by the equation of the circumference of a circle divided by the circle's diameter.

Basically, if you draw a circle with a compass and place a piece of string around the perimeter of the circle, measure that length, and divide that length by the circle's diameter, you should get approximately 3.14159…, no matter the size of the circle.

According to *Scientific American*, even the Egyptians in 2000 B.C. had recognized the constant of pi in connection to that every circle had the same circumference to diameter ratio. This apparently helped with their construction of the pyramids.

While the Egyptians had rough approximations of pi, it was not until later that Greek mathematicians were able to get better estimate its value. By the start of the 20th century, about 500 decimal places were known.

In math classes, we can simply hit the pi button on our calculator whenever we need to use it in a calculation. An interesting fact that most people don't know is that pi has been recently estimated to approximately 5 trillion decimal places by Japanese scientists Alexander Yee and Shigeru Kondo, according to the World Records Academy.

Pi is also used to approximate the volume and surface area of a sphere, so without pi, we would not be able to figure the surface area or volume of the earth or other planets. Therefore, it is also a key feature to the field of astronomy.

Pi is also constantly used by engineers, not only because of its value being in any equation involving part of or a whole circle, but also because pi is also used when measuring angles. Because of this, many equations used by engineers have pi in them. An engineering student at the University of Illinois says that she sees pi in almost every class.

In chemistry, pi can also be used when estimating the density of a wire or metal cylinder, or when determining the length of wire needed when conducting an experiment needing that element (such as a copper wire).

Basically anything that involves, circles, spheres, cylinders, and even angles requires pi.

Although many individuals will continue to see pi as a constant that is used in the evil subject of math, hopefully you have developed some insight as to why there is pi and just how often it is used in everyday life by scientists.

So kick off your spring break on March 14 by celebrating Pi Day. I mean, come on, who wouldn't want an excuse to eat pie?

Letter Policy

The Blazer encourages participation from readers through letters. Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authencity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at F-1009.

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Student talent raises money for charity

$390 raised at event

Photo courtesy of Student Government

JJC students perform at the JJC Student Talent Showcase on Feb. 25.

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Photo Editor

JJC Student Government collaborated with on-campus clubs Latinos Unidos and Black Student Union to sponsor a Student Talent Showcase on Feb. 25. The goal of the showcase was to raise money for this year's Student Government-chosen charity—the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana.

The event consisted of 12 student acts that had been selected from prior auditions. The acts showcased a variety of talents, including music, beat-boxing, dancing, magic and poetry reading, culminating in a final act combining all of the evening's participants.

In addition to the $3 entry fee charged at the door, a 50-50 raffle was held, splitting the funds between the charity and the winner. Raffle winner Michel Hernandez donated his winnings to the charity.

Though some Student Government members feared the event wasn't publicized enough, there was a large crowd present, and the total funds raised came to $390.

The Ronald McDonald Houses provide a "home away from home" to keep families together while their child is receiving medical treatment far from home. The Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana locations are near Advocate Hope Children's Hospital, Children's Memorial Hospital, Loyola University Medical Center and University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital.

DEPRESSION from page 1

group to replace every negative thought with a positive thought. "We think before we feel," he said.

The discussion then led to how both males and females suffer from side effects of depression, but that each gender does so in a different way. Men are more likely than women to report alcohol and drug abuse or dependence; however, it has not been proven whether men are more apt to relying on substances than women.

Although women are four times less likely than men to die from suicide, women reportedly face more attempts than men.

What drew Michael Hernandez, a student, to the event was the appeal of a more relatable demographic, such as men, rather than to a general audience.

"Too often, women are the primary focus of events on medical illnesses," said Hernandez. "The shift in concentration was very interesting."

While mental conditions such as depression sometimes seem inevitable, there are steps students can take to recovery. Dutt covered many ways students can ensure happiness within themselves, such as engaging in mild exercise, participating in activities, confiding in others, and lastly, seeking medical help.

Near the end of the presentation, Amy Sims, Coordinator of Holistic Wellness and Student Activities, brought JJC'S BIT (Behavioral Intervention Team) to the group's attention. The purpose of the *BIT* is to allow students and faculty to report potential or actual violence on campus for investigation by the JJC Campus Violence Prevention Committee. The BIT will then take appropriate action to ensure campus safety and help students in need of medical attention.

The Holistic Wellness program provides students with an array of seminars they can attend, *volunteer opportunities in the* community, and support resources to guarantee a positive school experience.

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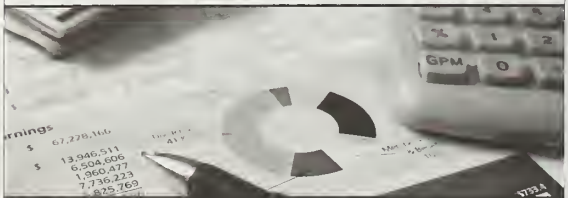

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Police Blotter

Student charged with misdemeanor battery

On Feb. 21, Craig Daniels of Sauk Village was arrested and charged with misdemeanor battery and criminal trespass to State Supported Land, according to JJC Police Department.

Police said that Daniels struck a student in the face when the student was leaving his class in K-building. According to police, the alleged victim was apparently earlier threatened by a female companion of Daniels.

According to police, Daniels had been "trespassed" from all JJC campuses in October 2010 after being arrested and charged with felony theft by JJCPD, effectively banning him from all JJC campuses.

Police investigating hit-and-run accident

JJCPD is investigating a hit-and-run accident that occurred on the Entrance Road of JJC on the morning of Thursday, March 3.

Police said that the incident happened between 6:17 a.m. and 6:28 a.m. Several traffic barriers were damaged in the accident, causing a blockage in one of the lanes.

Any witnesses are asked to contact JJCPD at (815) 729-9030 or ext. 2234.

Follow the Blazer online at www.jjc.edu/blazer

Photo by Eric Monahan

Students (from left) Manar Noubani, Amer WazWaz, Saba Mansoor and Njala Mansoor look at a vendor's jewelry at the African Bazaar held on the concourse on Feb. 24.

JJC holds African Bazaar

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Photo Editor

As part of JJC's Black History Month celebration each year, the African Bazaar has set up shop along the south concourse at Main Campus. This year was no exception as—for the 10th annual event—over a dozen vendors set up booths featuring a variety of wares for sale on Feb. 24.

The items included African, Caribbean and African-American art, jewelry, clothing, accessories, books and other unique gifts.

"Our hand therapy increases blood flow in the veins," said Ramila Khatau, vendor at the booth called "Health is in Your Hands."

Khatau explained that the hand-crafted items she sold were made by artisans in Africa, and that the artisans received payment for their items sold.

Khatau also emphasized the need for people to broaden their borizons by learning about other cultures.

"People need to know history from a diverse culture with diverse beings from a diverse country," Khatau said.

Another vendor, Dorene Curtis, cited the ideas and work of civil rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr., as an inspiration for celebrating African-American culture.

"We are proud of our history and of Dr. King," said Curtis. "We didn't have a Black History Month growing up, but thanks to Dr. King, now we do. We were brought here against our will and we overcame that, and it should be celebrated."

Curtis' husband, Dwayne Curtis, echoed his wife's views.

"Our goal is to open the eyes of individuals to see the different nationalities of the people," said Dwayne Curtis. "People should stop by, realize and pay homage to what is here. We deeply appreciate JJC for letting us come here every year."

The African Bazaar was sponsored by Project Achieve. Project Achieve is a program for low-income students, students with disabilities, or students whose parents did not graduate from a four-year university or college. The program offers free counseling and tutoring to eligible students.

For more information, contact Project Achieve Coordinator Jewell Dennis at jdennis@jjc.edu.

News Briefs

Trustee Election

Student Government is seeking a new Student Trustee for the 2011-2012 academic year. The term would begin April 15 and end on April 15, 2012.

The Student Trustee sits on the Board of Trustees and works closely with administrators, Student Government and state-wide committees as well as represents the students' voice.

A minimum of a 3.0 GPA is required as well as a minimum of nine credit hours earned at the time of petitioning.

The Student Trustee must be registered for six credit hours each semester of the term and be in good standing with the college, with no Code of Conduct violations.

If interested, students should stop by the OSA office, H-1016 and pick up a booklet. Online elections will be held on April 6-7, 2011.

Bookstore sponsors supply drive

The Bookstore, in conjunction with Boatsie's Boxes, is sponsoring a supply drive for U.S. troops overseas.

The drive is ongoing and supplies will be shipped as donations come in.

Donations must be given to the Bookstore by March 11 to be shipped March 14. Supplies may be dropped off during regular business hours.

For a list of appropriate items, please stop by the Bookstore or e-mail bookstore@jjc.edu.

Student Conduct Board seeks members

The Office of the Dean of Students is looking for new Student Conduct Board members.

Student Conduct Board members hear cases of students who are accused of violating the Student Code of Conduct and determine whether or not a violation occurred.

Any student, staff or faculty member is eligible to serve on the board. Requirements include participation in an initial training session and ongoing development workshops. Student members must maintain at least a 2.5 GPA.

The initial training session will be held March 17 from 12 to 4:30 p.m. in C-2018. For more information, or to register for the training session, please e-mail Evie Newman at enewman@jjc.edu.

College field trip

The Office of Multicultural Student Affairs is sponsoring a field trip to Lewis University on March 25.

The trip will depart promptly at 9 a.m. from D-1010 and will return to Main Campus around 1:30 p.m.

Space is limited and registration is required by March 22. Transportation will be provided by OMSA.

For more information, or to register, please e-mail Brandon Jackson at bjackson@jjc.edu or stop by D-1010.

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Student Spotlight: Olah Mehmood

BY RACHEL STELLA
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Not many people can say they are both a student and a teacher at JJC at the same time. Olah Mehmood is one of those who can.

A returning adult student, Mehmood is studying elementary education while tutoring Arabic language classes at JJC.

Teaching wasn't always the career path Mehmood chose to take. Originally, she studied computer science at Richard J. Daley College in Chicago and at Moraine Valley Community College.

When her two daughters were young, she volunteered in their school.

"I was from Kuwait," said Mehmood. "I wanted to know how the American public school system worked."

It was during her time in the elementary school setting that Mehmood discovered she had an aptitude for teaching.

"Being exposed to the public school was a wonderful experience," said Mehmood. "I liked the way the teachers taught their students."

Mehmood decided to pursue her teaching license. She now hopes to teach math and science in a local elementary school.

While studying at JJC, Mehmood was made aware of an opportunity to tutor students in the Arabic language. She has worked as an Arabic language tutor since the fall 2010 semester.

Though teaching college students is different from teaching elementary students, Mehmood has found she enjoys it as well.

"It's like really teaching," said Mehmood, noting that college students don't require the same level of supervision as elementary students. "The adult students are more interested in learning."

Mehmood has had a positive experience studying at JJC.

"I like the flexibility of JJC's schedule, and the professors are understanding and helpful," Mehmood said.

Mehmood is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, which is the international honor society for two-year colleges, and a member of the Elementary Teachers of Tomorrow Club on campus. She plans to transfer to Lewis University.

Olah Mehmood

Q&A with new Collegiate Club Council officers

By Kelsi Bertheaume

The Collegiate Club Council (CCC) at JJC is the club governing body for the institution. The CCC deals with all matters that pertain to on-campus clubs, such as allocating funds to them. The CCC is under the responsibility of the Office of Student Activities. Every month during the school year, the CCC holds a meeting and requires each club to send a representative.

New secretary/treasurer: Bobbi Carnes

Bobbi Carnes

The CCC also has a new secretary/treasurer, Bobbi Carnes. I had a chance to sit down with her for a few and ask a few questions.

Blazer: What are you majoring in?

Carnes: I am majoring in communications and getting a minor in psychology.

Blazer: How has attending JJC changed you?

Carnes: I'm not as shy anymore, and it has made me a better person. I think better of myself, and have a different perspective of life.

Blazer: How does it feel to be secretary/treasurer for the CCC?

Carnes: I feel good about it. It's more of a leadership role with a higher standard. I also get to hear everything first instead of going to different club meetings on different days.

Blazer: What is the best thing that you have accomplished this year?

Carnes: Getting a $500 grant for the Student United Way organization and the school.

Blazer: What other on-campus clubs are you involved in?

Carnes: I am president of Student United Way, a rep at large for Student Government, and a member of AWEN (Awakening Wisdom Entering Nature).

Blazer: What are your hobbies?

Carnes: I am a doll collector.

Blazer: What made you decide to join the CCC?

Carnes. I represented a club last semester and was nominated for secretary/treasurer out of the blue. I had no competition, so I automatically got the position.

Blazer: What is your main job in the CCC?

Carnes: My main job is to take minutes for the meetings. I also keep track of earned and allocated accounts for the clubs.

New public relations officer: Jenny Vargas

Jenny Vargas

The CCC has a new public relations officer, Jenny Vargas. I had a chance to sit down with her and chat about her lifestyle and how it was to be in the CCC.

Blazer: What are you majoring in?

Vargas: I'm getting a Bachelor's in Biology and then going on to get a Master's in Medical Sonography.

Blazer: How has attending JJC changed you?

Vargas: It changed me, because I've become more involved with the community.

Blazer: How does it feel to be a public relations officer for the Collegiate Club Council?

Vargas: It's a good opportunity to work with a lot of people and build on literature skills.

Blazer: What is the best thing you have accomplished so far?

Vargas: The best thing I accomplished this year is being Vice President of Student United Way at Joliet Junior College.

Blazer: What other clubs are you involved in?

Vargas. Student United Way.

Blazer: What are your hobbies?

Vargas: Listening to music and volunteering for the community.

Blazer: What made you decide to join the CCC?

Vargas. I already worked for Amy Sims [adviser of Student United Way], which gave me experience with the clubs.

Blazer: What is your main job with the CCC?

Vargas: My main job with the CCC is to announce monthly JJC events.

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JJC theater performs 'smash hit'

Photos by Kat Boehle

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Success with Purpose.

By Gina Caponigro

Staff Writer

The latest smash hit performed by the JJC theater company, "Little Shop of Horrors," was performed from March 3 through 6, and was directed masterfully by Nicki Blowers and David Nuccio as the musical director.

The story takes place in a struggling florist's shop on "Skid Row" where one of its employees, Seymour (played by Chris Cummings), finds a strange plant and soon discovers that it feasts on human blood.

As the unusual plant attracts new business to the shop, Seymour finds it hard to contain his guilt about the plant's diet, especially when the plant, Audrey II, named after fellow employee Audrey (played by Danielle Porterfield), becomes impatient and demands more food.

I give big props (no pun intended) to the puppeteers behind the many forms of the carnivorous plant. Their skills to engage the audience with the plants' actions were on point. Kudos also goes to Travis Cisco, the voice behind Audrey II's quick wit.

The set was simple yet every bit important. Though few props were used, I enjoyed the staircases winding toward the top of the florist shop, where some of the musical numbers were performed.

I also enjoyed the projection screen at the top of the florist shop that helped to dictate key events happening in the show. The music throughout the show was catchy, upbeat and put a smile on my face that would not go away.

With only five people in the orchestra, they made their presence known. Although they did a great job, at certain points during the show, the music seemed to overpower the spectacular vocals of the cast.

I was particularly impressed by the singing quartet of Chiffon, Ronnette, Crystal and Sapphire (Krysten Vega, Sarah Jandejska, Stephanie Klimowych and Amber Rubio), who made frequent appearances in such numbers as "Dentist!," "You Never Know," and "Da-Doo."

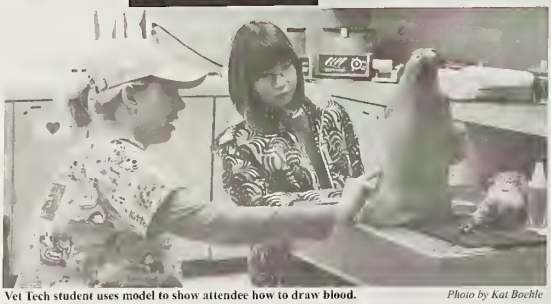
The quality of the acting was nothing short of fantastic. Ryan Bennett, who played Audrey's gruff dentist boyfriend, Orin, had me laughing all night long, as if I too was given nitrous oxide.

"Little Shop" was the first theater performance I've seen since I have been attending JJC, and this show definitely made a good first impression. I loved every aspect of the show and never wanted it to end.

All in all, I would give "Little Shop of Horrors" 5/5 stars. And remember, DON'T FEED THE PLANTS!

Upcoming Events

Nursing Job Fair ~ March 10 – 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. – C-Concourse
JJC Pow Wow ~ March 12 – 12 to 9 p.m. – Main Campus
Spring Break – March 14-18
High Intensity Game Show ~ March 22 – 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. – Bridge
Job Fair ~ March 23 – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Bridge
Brown Bag Lecture: "The AIFD Floral Experience"
~ March 23 – 12 p.m. – J-0006
Relay For Life ~ March 25 and 26 – 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. – Lewis University
Books Are Fun Book and Gift Fair
~ March 28 – 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. – South Bridge
~ March 29 – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. – South Bridge



Vet Tech student uses model to show attendee how to draw blood. *Photo by Kat Boehle*

Vet. Tech holds open house

BY DIANA PEREZ
Staff Writer

The Veterinary Medical Technology Program held an open house on March 5, full of staff and volunteer students with knowledge to share. The event was organized by Dr. Scott Keller, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Vet Tech Program Coordinator.

The open house gave tours of the Vet Tech program facility, a chance to meet with the staff, and provided information about the program.

Several students enrolled in the program showed guests what they do on a day-to-day basis, such as dental work, examples of emergency situations and caring for pets that are up for adoption.

Keller hopes the open house allowed incoming students to get a chance to meet the staff, but most importantly meet already-enrolled vet tech students. The interaction would help them know exactly what the program is about from someone who knows it first-hand.

"I want the community to know we're here," said Keller.

In the fall semester, they put together a dog wash for the students and community.

"It's like a car wash, but with dogs," said Keller.

The Vet Tech program only accepts students in the fall semester, and accepts only 48 students each year, making it a tough program to get into. The students are split into a.m. and p.m. shifts, with extra responsibilities in addition to their classes and homework.

"Even on our days off classes, we come in to run physicals on our assigned animals," said student Amy Scott, who is currently working with surgery within the program.

Students nurse sick animals back to health. Many of these animals later get put up for adoption on campus. Currently, the program has ten dogs and ten cats.

But that's not all they've worked with. Students get hands-on training with larger animals at the Weitendorf Agricultural Education Center on Laraway Road in Joliet.

Student Kristina Quiroz mentioned that working with the larger animals was the most exciting part of the program for her.

"I have about 500 pictures of [the animals]," said Quiroz.

The program takes in animals in addition to cats and dogs. These animals come from Joliet Township Animal Control and are often available for adoption.

For more information on the program, contact Keller at skeller@jjc.edu.

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Conor Oberst of the indie rock group Bright Eyes. *Photo courtesy of Bright Eyes*

Bright Eyes release 'nice farewell'

BY CARLOS ENRIQUEZ
Sports Editor

Conor Oberst, Mike Mogis and Nathaniel Walcott released their final recording as the indie rock group Bright Eyes with the 2011 release, "The People's Key."

The seventh and final full-length record serves as the end to the 16-year run by Bright Eyes, founded by at the time 15-year-old Oberst.

What "The People's Key" lacks in intimate lyrics Oberst has become infamous for providing, it shows in maturation.

Although there is political commentary that "our generation's Bob Dylan,"—as proclaimed by *Rolling Stone*—is also known for using.

The album serves as the most straightforward rock album by these musical chameleons, moving away from the lo-fi production sound heard in the first few Bright Eyes releases.

The album also introduces an instrument not really previously heard out Bright Eyes—the synthesizer (played by Walcott).

The first track, "Firewall," begins with a four-minute-long creepy speech by artist Denny Brewer. As Brewer's reading ends, Oberst's voice is heard and "The People's Key" unofficially begins.

Tracks such as "Shell Games," "Jejune Stars," "Triple Spiral" and "Beginner's Mind" introduce a new "poppier" sound to Bright Eyes fans.

However, tracks "Approximate Sunlight" and "A Machine Spiritual" show off the electronic folk sound the band made famous with their 2005 release "Digital Ash In A Digital Urn."

The album comes to an end with the seven-minute-long anthem, "One For You, One For Me."

Although it may be the end of Bright Eyes, we haven't heard the last of the members.

For example, Oberst and Mogis are members of the indie folk super group aptly named Monsters of Rock. Oberst also has an indie-rock-alternative-country side-project by the name of Conor Oberst & The Mystic Valley Band.

I cannot say that "The People's Key" is their greatest album, but I can say that overall it provides a very nice farewell to every Bright Eyes fan.

Upcoming Fine Arts Events

Musica Viva: Chamber Music for Saxophone and Voice
March 13 – 3 p.m. – Fine Arts Theatre

Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra
March 19 – 4 p.m. – Fine Arts Theatre

Art Exhibit: Slices of Life
Ongoing through March 25 – Laura A. Sprague Gallery

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Baseball

3rd-ranked Wolves set for season

By Carlos Enriquez
Sports Editor

The upcoming season should be an exciting one for the Joliet Junior College baseball team.

The team goes into the season ranked No. 3 overall in the NJCAA Division III Preseason Poll.

"I think that comes from respect for the program," said head coach Wayne King. "We've proven ourselves nationally. The ranking kind of reflects the program, maybe not necessarily what is returning."

However, that doesn't mean that King and the team aren't confident.

The staff is happy with the recruiting class, as well as the returning sophomores.

"We're happy overall with the freshmen and their development," said King. "The sophomores know the program and what's expected from them. I look for the sophomores to be leaders by example, and otherwise. They're all looking forward to the season."

There might also be some extra pressure for the sophomores this season, as an early exit in last year's playoffs ended a four-year run to the national tournament.

Yet King states that the returning players feel more motivated over anything else.

"It's not necessarily pressure, but motivation for the sophomores," said King. "They don't want to go down as a class that didn't make it to the World Series. They're hoping to get another streak started."

According to King, pitching should be the backbone of this year's team.

"Our pitching should carry us," said King. "It should put us in a good position, at least until our hitting and defense comes around."

However, the staff does feel that the team still has some things to work on before the season begins.

"Hitting is not there yet," King said. "Also, our outfield play is not where it should be yet."

The team is confident that all the skills in order to compete all year are there; they just have to be worked on.

The Wolves began the 2011 season on Thursday, March 3, with a 7-1 win at McHenry County College.

Their first home game is against Triton College on Thursday, March 10.

Upcoming Home Games

Baseball

March 10 vs. Triton College – 2:30 p.m.
March 19 vs. Morton College – 12 p.m.
March 20 vs. College of Lake County – 12 p.m.
March 22 vs. South Suburban College – 3 p.m.
March 23 vs. Moraine Valley Community College – 3 p.m.
March 24 vs. Oakton Community College – 3 p.m.
March 25 vs. Illinois Valley Community College – 3 p.m.
March 27 vs. Sauk Valley Community College – 12 p.m.
March 29 vs. Waubonsee Community College – 3 p.m.
March 30 vs. Kishwaukee College – 3 p.m.
April 3 vs. College of DuPage – 12 p.m.

Upcoming Home Games

Softball

March 25 vs. Madison College – 3 p.m.
March 26 vs. College of DuPage – 12 p.m.
March 29 vs. Oakton Community College – 3 p.m.
March 30 vs. Prairie State College – 3 p.m.
April 6 vs. South Suburban College – 3 p.m.

Softball

Lady Wolves 'anxious to get started'

By Carlos Enriquez
Sports Editor

The Joliet Junior College softball team is ready to get the 2011 season under way.

The Lady Wolves are coming off a 19-28 season that saw them go 5-5 in conference play. They are seeking to rebound after an upset in the Region IV tournament last season.

"The girls are starting to develop chemistry," said head coach Emily Marino. "They are ready to play. We have been practicing since January, so they are just a little anxious to get started."

The coaching staff and the team are feeling confident about the upcoming year.

However, Marino still feels that the team could use a little more work on their hitting. She feels as if the team's timing is not quite there yet at the plate.

"Our hitting is a little behind our pitching and defense," Marino said. "The girls just need to work on putting together stronger at bats."

According to Marino, she has seen a lot of positives with the team in practice. For example, the talent of the new crop of freshmen appears to be promising.

"There's seven freshmen, and they're all going to get a chance to play," said Marino. "They all made the commitment, and we're all excited to see how well they'll produce."

One of the biggest goals for the Lady Wolves is to have success in their regional games.

"We're hosting the regional playoffs this year," said Marino. "The girls are ready to defend their park and they're looking to compete."

Other goals for the team include learning from mistakes—and rectifying them.

"We want them to learn from losses and be better because of them," said Marino.

The Lady Wolves will have to face some added adversity because they will have fewer home games than the staff has been used to the past few seasons. Marino is not concerned, however.

"We don't want to focus too much on the lack of home games," said Marino. "We have a very nice field. Who knows, we might even get to host some road games because of weather conditions."

The Lady Wolves were scheduled to open the season at home on Monday, March 7, against College of DuPage. Their first road game is set for Thursday, March 10, against Illinois Valley Community College.

Their next home game is currently scheduled for Friday, March 25. It will be against conference rival Madison College.

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Forward Dominque Carr (left) and Guard Ashley Shelby hustle to recover the ball at home game against Illinois Central College earlier this season. *Photo by Kat Boehle*

Lady Wolves win 1st regional title since '05

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Photo Editor

The Joliet Junior College women's basketball team has kept their playoff run alive after winning their first Region IV title in six years.

The Lady Wolves were rewarded with a week off in order to rest and prepare before heading off to Minnesota for the NJCAA Division III Championship Tournament.

The Lady Wolves earned the regional title after defeating the tournament hosts, Rock Valley Community College. JJC defeated the Golden Eagles by a final score of 77-67 on Saturday, Feb. 26.

"To have started the season 0-10 is proof that hard work and determination can pay off," head coach Shaun Sanderson said. "I am extremely proud of our players, but our journey is not over yet."

Freshman guard Celestra Warren was named tournament MVP. Warren had 18 points and 10 rebounds in the championship game. Meanwhile, freshman guard Ashley Shelby led the team with 20 points. Sophomore guard Crystal Daniels had 14 points and freshman guard Alexis Baker had 13 points and went 4 for 8 from the three-point line to round up the double-digit seorers.

"We had a slow start, but I was not ready to see our basketball season end," said Daniels. "We know it won't get easier from this point on, but [Sanderson] will have us ready for whoever stands in our way of winning a Championship."

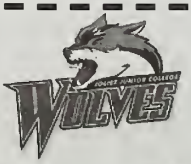
The Lady Wolves defeated Harper College by a final score of 59-51 to begin their playoff run.

"Harper did not let us run away with an easy victory," said Sanderson. "Late in the game, Harper cut a 15-point lead to 6 points before we were able to walk away with an 8-point victory."

"This felt really good to win a playoff game after we started the season 0-10," said Shelby following the Harper game. "Now it's time to show Rock Valley who's really going to Nationals."

In addition to Warren being named tournament MVP, Shelby and freshman forward Dominique Carr were named to the all-tournament team.

The Lady Wolves improve to 17-15 overall and will continue their season at the NJCAA Division III National Championship in Rochester, Minn. The tournament begins on Thursday, March 10.



The Blazer wishes luck to the men's and women's basketball teams at Nationals!

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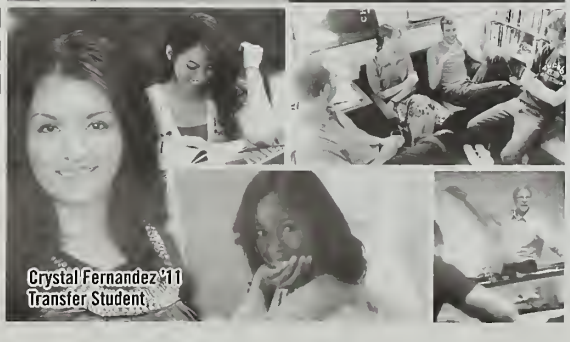

SPORTS

Guard Brandon Redmond grabs a rebound against Rock Valley earlier this season. *Photo by Kat Boehle*

Looking to repeat

Wolves off to New York to defend title

BY CARLOS ENRIQUEZ
Sports Editor

A second-straight national championship seems a lot more realistic now for the Joliet Junior College men's basketball team.

A 72-57 victory over the Madison College Wolfpack in the Region IV Championship sent the Wolves on to the next stage of the NJCAA Playoffs. The team currently stands at an overall record of 29-3.

The regional championship game against Madison was held at Rock Valley College in Rockford on Saturday, Feb. 26.

Sophomore guard Brandon Redmond almost singlehandedly led the team to the victory with possibly the best game of his college career during the regional championship, where he put up 29 points and 12 rebounds. Eight of his 12 rebounds were on the offensive glass.

"I thought our defense was outstanding tonight," said head coach Joe Kuhn. "We were a little nervous in Wednesday's game. Tonight there were no nerves. We played like a championship team."

As stated by Kuhn, the Wolves had a much tougher time during the Region IV Semifinals, when they defeated the Milwaukee Area Technical College Stormers by a final score of 65-63 on Wednesday, Feb. 23.

Redmond led the way for the Wolves with 15 points and 15 rebounds. Freshman guard Bradley Elam also added 15 points. Sophomore forward Andy Supergan and freshman guard Da'Jon Lewis both contributed 12 points.

"We were really fortunate to pull out the win tonight," Kuhn said. "Although our effort was outstanding, we were very careless with the ball and didn't shoot it very well. But good teams find ways to win and that is what we did."

Shortly after Saturday's championship game, Redmond was named Most Valuable Player for the Region IV Tournament. Along with him, Supergan was named to the all-tournament team.

"We have a nice run going, and it feels good to be able to at least have a chance to defend our title," said Kuhn.

The team will continue their run at a second consecutive NJCAA Division ttI National Championship on Thursday, March 10. The tournament will be held in Loch Sheldrake, N.Y.

The Wolves are ranked No. 3 in 20tt NJCAA Division III Final Poll.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

BY CARLOS ENRIQUEZ

Sophomore guard Brandon Redmond had a game to remember on Saturday, Feb. 26. Not only did his team win the regional tournament with a 72-57 victory over Madison College, but Redmond put up a monster performance with 29 points and 12 rebounds. Redmond also had an impressive performance in the semifinal against Milwaukee Area Technical College as he scored 15 points and had 15 rebounds on Wednesday, Feb. 23. His performance in the Wolves' two playoff games was good enough to get him named MVP for the regional tournament.

Brandon Redmond

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

Guard Celestra Warren earns her second consecutive Athlete of the Issue after leading the women's basketball team to its first Region IV title since 2005. The freshman out of Thornwood was named MVP of the tournament. Warren excelled in the regional championship against Rock Valley on Saturday, Feb. 26. In that game, she had 18 points and 10 rebounds en route to a 77-67 victory for the Lady Wolves. She also contributed in the regional semifinal as she had a team-high 8 rebounds in a 59-51 victory against Harper College on Thursday, Feb. 24.

Celestra Warren

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Student arrested on charges of child pornography

BY KAT BOEHLE
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Joliet Junior College student Joshua K. Price was arrested by the Crest Hill Police Department on Tuesday, March 29, on charges of aggravated child pornography, according to police reports.

According to JJC police, a flash drive containing child pornography was discovered on March 24 in a computer in the JJC Honors Lounge in C-2002 by a student. The student then turned the flash drive over to an employee. Police said Price, 26, of Crest Hill, was later arrested when files containing his name were found on the flash drive.

According to police, when the employee looked on the flash drive to try to identify the owner, the employee came across a picture of a naked girl around the age of 13. A paper with Price's name on it was also found on the flash drive. That discovery later led to Price's arrest, according to police.

JJC Police Chief Pete Comanda said he first examined the flash drive on Friday, March 25. Upon inspecting it, Comanda said he discovered hundreds of pornographic photos and videos that involved both girls and boys of all ages.

"We're glad that our staff is alert and brought this to our attention," Comanda said.

On Monday, March 28, JJCPD contacted the State's Attorney Office as well as the Crest Hill Police Department and the Will County Sheriff. The Will County Sheriff called a computer forensic investigator to work on the flash drive.

Comanda said it was on Tuesday, March 29, when Crest Hill Police Department obtained a search warrant for Price's apartment. Price was not at the apartment when the search began.

Joshua Price

See CHARGES on page 3

Photo by Kat Boehle

From left: Trustees Dan D'Connell, Barb Delaney, Bob Wunderlich, College President Gena Proulx, Executive Director of the Illinois Capital Development Board Jim Underwood, and Trustee Jeff May take part in ribbon-cutting ceremony for new building.

JJC cuts ribbon on Facility Services Building

BY RACHEL STELLA
Co-Editor-in-Chief

If you regularly enter the main campus through the north entrance at J-Building, you've seen the building being constructed at the front of North Lot 1. On March 29, the time finally came for that building to open. The ribbon was cut, and the Facility Services Building opened for business.

The 40,000 square-ft facility is the new home of JJC's custodial, maintenance, environmental safety, planning and construction, roads and grounds, and facility scheduling staff. Formerly, these offices were housed in temporary buildings from the 1970s that are now being demolished.

The building, designed by Legat Architects with lead construction by Gilbane Building Company, is the second completed structure in the college's five-year Master Plan project.

"The Master Plan would not be a success without the Illinois Capital Development Board," said Gena Proulx, President of Joliet Junior College.

The Illinois CDB provided the funding for the Facility Services Building as a part of the 2009 Illinois Jobs Now program.

"We're very proud of this building," said Jim Underwood, Executive Director of the Illinois CDB. "Everyone did a good job on this; they did a wonderful job."

The building consists of a large garage area to accommodate various service vehicles, as well as an administrative area featuring staff offices, a shipping and receiving dock, and an extra storage area.

"You finally have a home," said Proulx, addressing the

See FACILITY on page 3

Students showcase work at film fest

BY GINA CAPONIGRO
Staff Writer

The Joliet Filmmakers Association held their annual film festival on March 25, where students from the club displayed their work for fellow club members.

All films presented at the festival were originals, and some could be seen on YouTube. A few films that were shown were parodies of songs and movies, such as Avi Trivedi's "Aaj Raat," which was a parody of Enrique Iglesias' song "Tonight." Trivedi's creative take on the song was utilizing his Indian culture, turning Iglesias' hit it into a song about cooking various Indian dishes such as roti and naan, a leavened, oven-baked flatbread.

"My friend Mobi, who also stars in the film, called me up over winter break wanting to make a movie," said Trivedi, describing bis inspiration for the film.

Nicole Peterson and Adam

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EDITORIAL

JJC 'Master Plan' has more to come

Sometimes it can seem as if the construction projects on campus will never end. The inconveniences caused by the projects can make us lose sight of the bigger picture of where JJC wants to go.

The good news is that there is an end in sight. It may not come while you're still a student here, but it will come.

The work for the JJC Master Plan is moving along, and the recent opening of the Facility Services Building is a notable step in the direction of completion.

Of the several campus expansion projects in the Master Plan, two have been completed so far.

The first was the Greenhouse Facility, completed in December 2009. This building features a multi-purpose classroom and three greenhouses totaling nearly 9,000 square feet.

The second project was the aforementioned Facility Services Building, completed in March.

The JJC community's focus is now turned toward the next upcoming project. This building should be of particular interest to the general student population, as it will house several important offices and areas essential to students' collegiate experience.

The Campus Center, located at the southeast corner of Main Campus, will become the campus' new "front door" and main building, containing admissions, registration, financial aid, counseling, tutoring, career services, the cafeteria, the bookstore, the library, the Human Resources office and the President's suite—among other things!

The Campus Center will connect C-Building and A-Building and will open up new parking spaces. It will also feature a new outdoor dining area. Students can expect to enjoy this facility by this summer.

Looking ahead to the Fall 2011 semester, the Automotive Technology Expansion is expected to be completed. Although students who typically park in the south lots might see this project as intruding on parking lot space, this expansion benefits the automotive technology service program by providing a technologically advanced learning environment for students.

The expansion will provide a shop area with 16 service bays, four new classrooms, a customer service area and additional storage space.

Meanwhile, back on the north side, J-Building will be undergoing significant changes. With all the previously mentioned offices and areas moving to the Campus Center, J-Building will be renovated to offer expanded academic space.

The Fine Arts Department will be given more room to expand, and there will be new math labs and classrooms, as well as expanded offices for Mathematics and Information Technology.

This may likely mean that the north side of campus will be closed during this period, which may inconvenience the JJC community for a while. But the improvements should be worth it.

The Master Plan expansion doesn't stop there. JJC is looking forward to the Natural Sciences Expansion, the Health Professions Building and the expansion of the City Center Campus, to which our nationally renowned culinary arts and hospitality programs will be moved.

And of, course, we can't forget the ongoing natural areas restoration, which is clearing out non-native plant species and returning 65 acres to their original, pre-1820s state.

But the completions of these projects are a bit further off, so we will leave discussion of them for future issues of the Blazer.

For now, when you enter campus and see the sign that says "Pardon our dust! We're building a better JJC!", you'll hopefully have a little more appreciation for what's to come.

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How global economy affects gas prices

BY TAVIA HANRAHAN
Advertising Manager

Everybody is noticing the gas prices, and how gas is again becoming outrageously expensive. Not since 2008 have Americans seen gas prices reach so high, and they are rising rapidly.

It feels like overnight, the price of gas spiked 10 cents. As of April 1, the average cost for gas in Chicago is $3.94, which is a 94-cent increase within one year, according to chicagogasprices.com.

People want to know why the prices have increased so much. Throughout recent history, our dependency on crude oil has controlled our wallets, and when natural disasters or conflicts strike, the prices of gas rise.

In 2008, Hurricane Ike hit the Gulf of Mexico and destroyed 10 offshore platforms, according to a 2008 article in the Huffington Post. The price of a barrel of crude oil in 2008 was $91.48, a $27.28 increase over one year, according to Illinois Oil & Gas Association records.

Now the current conflict in Libya could be the reason for this increase. Libya is home to the largest oil reserves in Africa, and the current civil war between leader Moamar Gadhafi and the anti-Gadhafi rebels. The war is making it more costly for the United States to get oil.

The price has increased 76 cents since last year, according to a March 20 article from Reuters. On April 1, United Press International published that the current price for one barrel of crude oil was up to $108.10.

This has urged President Obama to come up with a strategy to decrease our dependency on importing oil. He discussed his plan on March 30 during a speech at Georgetown University.

"We cannot keep going from shock to trance on the issue of energy security, rushing to propose action when gas prices rise, then hitting the snooze button when they fall again," said Obama. "There are no quick fixes."

Obama's plan includes domestic drilling, which will reduce America's oil imports by a third by 2025. He announced he has approved 39 shallow drilling permits and seven deep drilling permits.

The President announced a plan to research new means of alternate fuel: looking into woodchips, switch grass, plant waste and corn ethanol. He declared that by the year 2015, all new vehicles are will be required to be alternative fuels such as bybrids and electric cars.

The prices will still be high in the near future, but if the President's plan is successful, the prices in gas will definitely decrease over time.

Hopefully Obama doesn't disregard his promise to research the alternative fuel sources, and only rely on the domestic drilling. The Gulf Coast saw the effects of poorly managed drilling. For the environment's sake, we need to stop our dependency on crude oil.

Letter Policy

The Blazer encourages participation from readers through letters. Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authencity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at F-1009.

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FACILITY from page 1

various Facility Services staff.

The building was designed according to LEED standards and its certification is pending. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a voluntary, consensus-based standard to support and certify successful green building design, construction and operations.

"A project of this size requires the efforts of many people working collaboratively," said Proulx, noting and thanking the various people involved in the project.

Around 100 people attended the grand opening event, including Manhattan, Ill. Mayor Bill Borgo, as well as representatives from Congressman Adam Kinzinger's office and Joliet Mayor Art Schultz' office.

"You have to be impressed with what they've accomplished here," said Larry Bacher, Higher Education Center of Excellence Leader of Gilbane Building Company. "I'm proud to be part of the team that put this building here."

JJC teams help fight cancer in 'Relay For Life' at Lewis

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Photo Editor

Four teams from Joliet Junior College participated in the annual Relay For Life All College event co-sponsored by JJC, Lewis University and University of St. Francis on March 25-26.

The Office of Student Activities, the Nursing Program, the combined Honors Program/ Phi Theta Kappa group and an independent student group called "Tree of Souls" all sent teams to the event to raise funds for the American Cancer Society's cancer research efforts, raising a combined total of over $7,100.

The Honors Program/Phi Theta Kappa team, named "Smartie Pants 4 a Fighting Chance," was led by co-captains Allison Wysock and Lindsey Kelderhouse. In 2010, the Smartie Pants 4 a Fighting Chance team raised around $1,200 total, according to Kelderhouse, who was co-captain then.

This year, the team raised $1,100 leading up to the event.

"We had students go out and raise their own [funds]," said Kelderhouse. "It was a team effort."

Fundraising continued at the Relay For Life event itself, which was held at the Lewis University Fieldhouse in Romeoville, Ill. The Smartie Pants 4 a Fighting Chance team sold pop, water, candy and did face painting.

"We had Twister and music; it was fun," said Kelderhouse.

The Nursing Program's team raised over $5,000. OSA's team raised $240, and the Tree of Souls team raised over $660.

Donations are still being accepted at time of publication.

Relay For Life is an overnight event that celebrates cancer survivors, remembers loved ones and raises money to support the fight against cancer. Teams of eight to 15 members gather with tents and sleeping bags with the goal of keeping one person on the track at all times.

The JJC InterVarsity Christian Fellowship club is sponsoring a team called "Pray for a Cure" for the upcoming Relay For Life of Joliet, held at Joliet Memorial Stadium on June 4-5.

JFA from page 1

Ramirez also presented a parody film, which was a spoof of "Twilight," the popular vampire saga. Another piece they presented showed them auditioning to be the next mascot for Twix.

While in the club, students learned various film techniques, such as operating a green screen, which Amanda Price and Peter David used for their short film "French Fries."

Not only did the films vary in length, the length of production for each film was also varied. "Lotus The Vampire Hunter," another student-made film, took a year and a half to make, and came through with positive results. The students in charge of the film's production are hoping to turn the vampire hunter's escapades into a Web series in the near future.

The students' creativity and dedication definitely was the star in each of their films. This talented group of students plans to have more of these film festivals in the future.

CHARGES from page 1

but he arrived on the scene during the investigation. According to Comanda, police found more pornography on Price's home computer hard-drive. At that time, Price was arrested on three counts of aggravated child pornography.

Price was then taken to the Crest Hill Police Department where he was interviewed and officially charged, according to Comanda.

On Wednesday, March 30, Will County Judge Marzell Richardson set bond at $250,000. Price's preliminary hearing will be held at the Will County Courthouse on April 20.

According to Comanda, the forensic investigation of Price's hard-drive is ongoing. Investigators have not released any additional information regarding their findings.

According to Comanda, at this point the investigators are searching for any evidence that might link Price to distribution or production of child pornography. If evidence like that were to be found, Comanda indicated that that additional charges would likely be filed against Price.

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Culinary team moves on to regionals

BY KAT BOEHLE
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Photo courtesy of JJC website

Chef Kyle Richardson, left, and Chef Tim Bucci, shown here in a photo from 2010, are currently preparing the JJC team for the upcoming Hot Foods competition to be held in New Orleans April 16-21.

On Saturday, March 5, the Joliet Junior College Hot Foods Team proved victorious in the Illinois Hot Foods Team Championship against Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts of Chicago.

Held at JJC, the JJC Hot Foods Team won a gold medal with a final score of 38/40 points while Le Cordon Bleu brought home a bronze medal with a final score of 23/40 points. This is the ninth time the JJC Hot Foods Team has won the state competition in the last 11 years, said Co-Coach Kyle Richardson.

"Not bad for a school that costs one-tenth the price of the private schools in Chicago," said Department Chair Chef Michael McGreal.

Team members include Aaron Guajardo III, Michael Sbannon, David Basile, Robert Belanski, Laura Korte and Andrew Katsulis. They are coached by Richardson, Chef Tim Bucci and Assistant Coach Suzette Simpson.

The team will be representing Illinois at the regional competition held April 16 through 21 in New Orleans, La., where they will be competing against 11 other state winners.

"We went to nationals last year and won a silver medal by a point," said Richardson. "We want gold this year."

The state competition was judged in two different parts, the skills portion and the hot plates portion.

In the skills portion of the competition, students had 80 minutes to cut and clean a chicken and a fish; cut up vegetables in a specific manner, and put together a pastry.

Richardson said that if the students went overtime, points would be deducted.

For the hot foods portion, students had 85 minutes to cook a four-course meal of four portions and had 15 minutes to serve the portions to the judges. Two of the judges would then judge the taste of the meal.

Once again, if the team were to go overtime, points would be deducted.

At the regional competition, the event will be held over two days. One day will be dedicated to the same skills and hot foods portions, while the other day will be dedicated to an added cold foods portion.

Richardson said that this team has been practicing for these competitions since last year and got to practice at an Ohio competition on Jan. 29, where the team brought home first place and a gold medal.

If the team wins the regional competition, they will move on to the national competition that will be in July in Dallas, Texas, where they would compete against the three other regional winners. Richardson said that at this competition, the team would scrap the original menu that they competed with at the state and regional competitions and start with a whole new menu.

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Rachel Long and Rodrigo Montoya collaborated to create the 3-D mixed media art entitled "The Scouts" that won a merit award at the Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibition.

Photo courtesy of JJC website

Students clean out art show

BY KAT BOEHLE
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Of the 15 merit awards given out at the Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibition, Joliet Junior College art students brought home seven of them.

With 18 colleges and 118 works represented at the show, JJC's 19 exhibiting students had 22 works exhibited.

Merit Awards went out to Rachel Long and Rodrigo Montoya, who collaborated to make a 3D mixed media art; Jessica Chadwick with a 3D ceramic; Jason McDowell with a 2D low relief mixed media and Timothy Schad with an ink drawing, who also won second place People's Choice Award. Jenny Darby also brought home third place People's Choice Award with ceramics.

"We did really well this year, and it's a tough competition," said art professor Joe Milosevich, also the director of JJC's Laura A. Sprague Gallery. "I'm very, very proud of our students. It's a great accomplishment."

The ICCJAE is a juried show that happens every year, allowing all of the community colleges in the state to submit any type of artwork from pastels to photography.

The show used to be co-sponsored by JJC and Kankakee Community College. Then a few years ago, Governors State University took over in order to allow the exhibition to be bigger.

This year, the juror was Douglas Stapleton, the Assistant Curator of Art at the Illinois State Museum Chicago Gallery.

Milosevich said that something unique that happened this year is that every JJC student who submitted something had at least one of their works featured in the show.

The 2011 JJC Art Students' Juried Exhibition will be featuring Schad's ink drawing as well as Jill Philips' pastel drawing. The exhibition will be running April 11 through May 6 in the Laura A. Sprague Art Gallery located on the second floor of J-Building.

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Emily Browning stars as Babydoll in new Zack Snyder film "Sucker Punch." *Photo courtesy of Warner Brothers*

Don't dodge this 'Sucker Punch'

By Ryan Miller
Production Manager

When a person has nothing to lose, how far will he or she go just to have something to lose? In Zack Snyder's "Sucker Punch," that question is answered.

"Sucker Punch" is an epic action fantasy world that takes us into the imagination of a young woman, Babydoll (played by Emily Browning), which takes her away from her dark and depressing world of reality.

After the death of her mother and sister, her cruel stepfather places her in an insane asylum to collect the inheritance that the mother left behind in her will. She is locked up against her will in a place that on the outside looks like an insane asylum, but is just a front for what is basically an exotic dance gentlemen's club.

Although she is held captive, her passion and determination for freedom burns brightly and urges four other girls—Sweet Pea (Abbie Comish), Rocket (Jena Malone), Blondie (Vanessa Hudgens) and Amber (Jamie Chung)—to fight for the same cause: to be free.

The girls must gather five items, the last item a mystery, to assure their freedom from their captors, Blue (Oscar Isaac) and Madam Gorski (Carla Gugino). The trick is that the way to acquire these items is to basically hypnotize the audience by Babydoll's dancing, which we never really see, due to the fact that when she dances she goes into her alternate reality where she fights samurai, German armies, dragons and robots with the help of her four friends and an imaginary wise man (Scott Glenn) with a virtual arsenal at their disposal.

I don't want to give away the ending, but let me tell you, it's definitely not what you would expect, hence the title of this movie.

Overall, I really enjoyed this movie. Throughout the entire time it kept me on my toes and made the gears in my head turn so I could keep up with it. The beginning is somewhat confusing, seeing as the first 10 minutes or so there is no dialogue. But it's basic in the sense that you can tell what's going on.

The action in this movie is the best I've seen in a while. It's visually stunning and the graphics are amazing; it has a video game style to it.

The plot, however, is a little lacking, along with story structure, dialogue and even some of the acting. The dialogue I felt was really basic, and I felt that there could have been more background information on each of the characters so I could better understand what they were all about and just to see more about them. The only characters you really learn about are Babydoll, Sweet Pea (sort of), and Rocket.

The acting was sub-par, but could have actually been better if there was better dialogue. In a way, I don't really blame the actors and actresses for their performance, I mainly blame the dialogue.

Despite its flaws, "Sucker Punch" was a really fun and interesting movie to watch and I recommend taking the time to see it. Overall, I give it a 3½ out of 5 stars.

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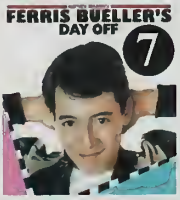
Miller's Movies: Top 10 Comedies (before 1990)

By Ryan Miller
Production Manager

10. National Lampoon's Vacation (1983) – Starting my countdown of top ten comedies before 1990 is "National Lampoon's Vacation." The first in the Griswold family vacation series, it lays the structure for some of the funniest movies around. Seeing the family and their many stops to the fantastic car trip to Walley World theme park keeps you laughing as getting there proves to be more of a hassle than anticipated.

9. Blazing Saddles (1974) – This movie is such a classic! It is definitely one of the most memorable on my list. Its beyond-the-age humor has been judged by many as politically incorrect and would probably be looked down upon if made in this day and age. But despite all that, it's just so funny. It's the exact definition of a Western spoof and deserves so much praise, which is why it made it on my top ten. If you don't get offended easily, see this movie.

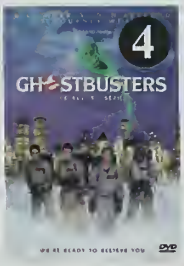
8. Airplane! (1980) – Set with a stunner cast, it's not a surprise that one of the best spoof films of all time made it onto this list. The comedy is non-stop and is so memorable that it's hard to forget anything from this movie. Like I said, the cast is really good and really makes this movie what it is: hilarious.



7. Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) – One of the best-known comedies around, it was a guarantee to make it on my list. It's the ultimate teen fantasy movie—skipping school, going to the city in a 1961 Ferrari 250 GT, and not getting caught by your parents. This movie is like a rite of passage into the teenage world as it teaches us life's most important and somewhat useful tips.

6. Spaceballs (1987) – Another Mel Brooks masterpiece, this movie incorporates humor and spoofing of some of the best space movies (mainly the "Star Wars" franchise) along with other references to the '80s culture. That's the thing that makes Mel Brooks films so funny; he knows how to incorporate jokes that have to do with the year the movies made in. Another thing that really makes me respect Mel Brooks is that before the filming of this movie, he sent the script, which took him six months to write, to George Lucas to get his blessings in even making the film.

5. Stripes (1981) – Another movie with an all-out hilarious cast that makes this movie a comedy classic. Bill Murray and Harold Ramis are a fantastic combo that go perfectly with each other, along with the additional comedy legend John Candy. This movie gives the army lifestyle a lighter look than what it actually is, but nonetheless, you can't help but constantly laugh at this very funny film.



4. Ghostbusters (1984) – Another Bill Murray and Harold Ramis masterpiece that sets the bar of a fantastic comedy line-up which includes Dan Aykroyd, Sigourney Weaver, Rick Moranis and Ernie Hudson. This was one of the very first movies I saw Bill Murray in and ultimately made him one of my favorite comedians who I have come to love.

3. Caddyshack (1980) – It's safe to say that Bill Murray is pretty much dominating my top ten list, but he deserves it. Other than that, this movie truly is a classic and should be respected as such. Even if you're not a golfer, you'll find this movie entertaining nonetheless because of all its antics by Murray, Chevy Chase and Rodney Dangerfield (all comedy legends). For you younger generations, I'm going to put it simply as this: you'll wish your job could be this cool.

2. The Blues Brothers (1980) – One of the greatest movies to revolve around the great city of Chicago. This film combines two great aspects: one being the tag team comedy stylings of Dan Aykroyd and the legend himself, John Belushi. The second thing is combining the great music genres—blues and jazz. The two brothers on their mission from God makes a film that if you haven't seen, you need to see, especially if you're living in the very city where it all took place.

1. Animal House (1978) – My number one comedy before 1990 would have to be what is deemed as the greatest college movie of all time: "Animal House." This is my all-time favorite comedy classic because of its off-brand and college humor. With the combined minds of John Landis and Harold Ramis, it really is no surprise why this movie is so funny, not to mention the legendary acting of John Belushi, who although was not the main character in the movie, was the biggest star. This movie combined so many great actors that really brought out their characters in hilarious ways that make this movie what it truly deserves to be: number one. It sums up the dream college experiance every guy would like to have in basically two and a half hours: hanging with friends, going on road trips, having toga parties, and meeting a lot of chicks.

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India Fest Event: Indian Marketplace
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Exercise is Medicine: Boot Camp
April 8 – 12 p.m. – Center Bridge
Gay Prom
April 9 – 6 p.m. – Cafeteria
American Red Cross Blood Drive
April 12 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Center Bridge
Diversity Forum
April 13 – 11:30 – T-1000
Muslim Student Association: Multicultural Dinner
April 13 – 5 to 7 p.m. – J-0006
Free Screening of 'HOWL'
April 13 – 7 p.m. – D-2001
Discussion: "Persecuted Peoples of Iraq"
April 14 – 7 p.m. – D-2001
PTSD and TBI in Veterans
April 15 – 11 a.m. – Bridge

'Sparrow' wraps up season

By Kat Boehle
Co-Editor-in-Chief

For their final production of the year, the Joliet Junior College Fine Arts Department will be showing "The Sparrow" from April 14-17, a play originally created by the House Theatre of Chicago where it won the 2007 Jeff Award for Best Non-Equity Production and Best New Work.

The story is centered around a high school student with "mysterious powers" who was the sole survivor of a bus crash that happened when she was in the second grade. After leaving the small town after the accident, the teenager has returned to town where she and the town's people have to come to terms with the tragedy.

"I thought this would be an awesome play for students to see and perform," said director Clay Kirkland. "It would also be a challenge for me because it's a style that I have never done before."

Kirkland originally saw the play at the House Theatre of Chicago and was pleasantly surprised after being skeptical about the plot.

Not only is the production being performed for the first time at the JJC theater, but Kirkland said that the play has not been produced much at all and the script has not even been officially published. Because of this, Kirkland said that he had to personally call the House Theatre and ask for the script and rights to produce the play.

The production displays some unique technical aspects including set construction and score. Kirkland said that the set relies a lot on the audience's imagination because it is more suggestive instead of realistically set.

This will be executed through a lot of projections on a screen, Kirkland said. There will also be a scene where the main character walks down a street and instead of a constructive set of houses, members of the ensemble will be holding pictures of houses.

Although not a musical, the production has an original score that was written by an employee of the House Theater. The score will aid as background music in many scenes, Kirkland said.

Kirkland said that after a large turnout at the auditions, the cast he chose includes a lot of new actors to the JJC stage as well of some returning actors.

"It is a fun group to work with," Kirkland said. "I cannot speak highly enough of the actors I'm working with."

Tickets are on sale for $8 to the general public; $5 for JJC faculty, non-JJC students and senior citizens; and $3 for JJC students. They can be purchased at the box office in K-building, or by calling 815-280-2200.

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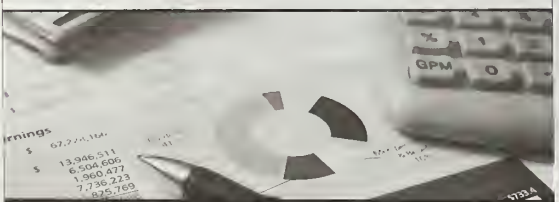

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'American Idol' contestant, JJC alum, helps raise funds for piano

Photo courtesy of Paige DeChausse

JJC alum Paige DeChausse sings at past event.

By Rachel Stella
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The Joliet Junior College Fine Arts Department featured a variety of musicians at a concert March 27 to raise funds for the college's first Steinway grand piano. Among the performers in the Fine Arts Theatre that afternoon was "American Idol" contestant and JJC alumna Paige DeChausse.

After graduating with Associate of Arts in Music in May 2009, DeChausse auditioned for the "American Idol" competition that summer. Although nothing came of it that year, she auditioned again in 2010 and made the first cut. After a second audition, she was on her way to Hollywood. After her third audition for the top 24 contestants, however, she was not selected.

DeChausse is now touring, writing songs with her own band, and working on recording her first album.

"I've found that the career choices I've made thus far have been for the best," said DeChausse. "If the timing is right, I may give 'Idol' another shot."

After receiving an email from Assistant Professor of Music Daniela Broderick asking her to perform for the fundraising event, DeChausse accepted enthusiastically.

"I was thrilled and more than happy to come back and be part of such a wonderful event," said DeChausse. "Making an appearance back at JJC is like coming home for me."

DeChausse credits her collective experience with JJC fine arts faculty as influential to her career path.

"Having never read music or taken classical voice training until my studies at JJC, I was very much impacted by every music course and the professors who instructed them," said DeChausse. "All their little pieces of advice about performance, practice and perseverance have stuck with me."

The concert featured other JJC alumni, current students, professors and special guests, as well as an intermission reception sponsored by the JJC Foundation with hors d'oeuvres made by members of the JJC Hospitality Club.

The concert raised $23,000 in total, according to JJC Foundation Executive Director Kristin Mulvey. This amount included ticket sales at $10 each, as well as other donations made by concert attendees that day.

"What is great about this concert is that by purchasing the $10 ticket, or by making an additional donation, every member of the audience will know that they helped on the purchase of this piano," said Broderick.

DeChausse will appear at JJC again for the final Musica Viva performance on May 8 at 3 p.m.

Independent film impresses audience

BY WILLIAM MALLADY
Staff Writer

Earlier this month, I was lucky enough to attend the Midwest Independent Film Festival as a guest, going with a friend who had won tickets to the event. The MIFF is held the first Tuesday of every month, and is the "nation's only film festival dedicated to the Midwest filmmaker," according to their website.

This month's film was a gangster movie entitled "Kill the Irishman." The film is loosely based on historical events, as well as Cleveland, Ohio police chief Rick Porrello's book "To Kill the Irishman." It centers around '70s era Irish mobster Danny Greene, "the man the mob couldn't kill."

As the movie's tagline suggests, the plot concentrates on the Cleveland mob's efforts to eliminate the tough-guy Danny Greene. At first a working-class hero, Greene rises to become a Union Boss through illicit means, which mark the beginning of his ultimately disastrous foray into organized crime.

While slowly rising through the ranks, Danny manages to marry and furnish a lavish new home with money from his criminal exploits—he even starts a family.

Everything is looking up for Danny Greene until, inevitably, he gets caught and sentenced to jail time. Undaunted, Danny picks up right where he left off when he is released, and eventually turns the table on the mafia in order to pursue his own ambitions.

Standing in the way of his ambitions is an endless string of car bombers and shooters trying to assassinate him. Only through his infamous invincibility and bottomless courage does Danny manage to, eventually, bring down the mafia that so despised him and secure a notorious spot in the history of Cleveland's organized crime.

The film was overall a slightly-above-average, though not exceptional, Irish gangster movie. There is nothing that really sticks out about this movie as extraordinary, though it certainly has the capacity to entertain—I wasn't on the edge of my seat, but I was sitting upright at least.

The film's dark humor and at times intense violence help to keep it from being slow at any point, as does the incredible amount of car bombings. At a point in the movie, there is a montage of what seems like dozens of car bombings, both from actual historical footage and footage shot for the movie itself.

Overall, the movie was enjoyable. Danny Greene's story of courage and independence, though he endeavors to ultimately do wrong, is inspiring to a degree. Don't go into this movie expecting a gripping plot or any sort of subtleties. Go into it with a box of pizza in front of you and two or three of your best dude-friends.

Photo courtesy of Anchor Bay Films

Christopher Walken and Ray Stevenson star in independent film "Kill the Irishman."

Photo courtesy of Focus Features

Mia Wasikowska stars as Jane Eyre in new movie.

'Jane Eyre' delivers new grace in classic story

BY SARA WESTON
Staff Writer

"Jane Eyre" is a recent Gothic drama based on Charlotte Brontë's classical coming-of-age novel of the same name. It is a story which has endured and appealed for more than 150 years, and it translates to a graceful and sparse film.

The story plays out in flashbacks, which enable the screenwriters to compress this three-part, first-person novel into a two-hour timespan. It's very difficult to adapt a novel of this size to a movie that audiences will sit through. The novel covers years and years of development which has been forgone in this movie.

Because of this, "Jane Eyre" possesses an awkward, abrupt quality to it. The events and relationships often seem hurried and unconvincing, the most striking example of this being the haziness with which the main romantic relationship, between Jane and her employer, Mr. Rochester, is conveyed. Because of this, the film only half-realizes the story on which it is based.

The film entirely rests on the shoulders of Mia Wasikowska, the pale actress with piercing eyes whose responsibility it was to convey the heroine Jane's impenetrable spirit and plain face.

Jane's character and appearance is striking for its muted and yet steel-strong qualities. These are qualities rare or non-existent in many films dished out to the American public today. For this reason, "Jane Eyre" is worth seeing if only for Wasikowska's tremendous performance.

Dario Marianelli, the composer of film music for "V for Vendetta" (2006) and "Pride and Prejudice" (2005), created a mesmerizing soundtrack that works to grip the audience behind the landmarks of the film: the spooky and beautiful mansion, the cold sky and craggy rocks of the countryside that surrounds it, Jane's quiet steel nerves, Mr. Rochester's easy arrogance, the masterful cast, and the evocation of furtive and thriving love.

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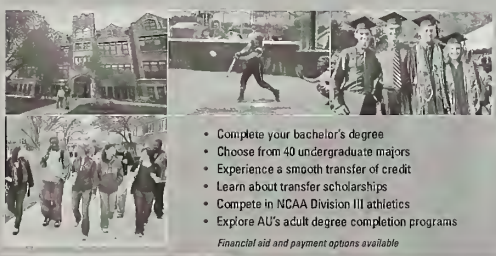

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Scale the Summit blows listener's mind

By Ryan Kelley
Staff Writer

2011 is a great year for the progressive metal scene. With new upcoming releases from Between the Buried and Me, Protest the Hero, The Human Abstract and Periphery, fans are in for a huge treat.

Scale the Summit, an instrumental band from Houston, Texas, released their new album, "The Collective," on March 1, marking a little over two years since their last release, "Carving Desert Canyons."

When speaking about this band, I am very enthusiastic and this album has made me even more confident when suggesting them to someone. When mentioning to people that Scale the Summit is an instrumental band, I usually receive answers along the lines of "eh, I need a melody," or "they could easily have a singer."

To me, a vocalist would ruin everything this band stands for. If they added one, I believe it would make them less unique. I've always believed in the idiom "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." This applies perfectly to Scale the Summit, and if you are patient and appreciative enough to listen to music without vocals, then these guys will definitely make your time worthwhile.

I am blessed that I had the opportunity to see them open for Between the Buried and Me at the House of Blues in February 2010. Since then, I have become a big supporter of them.

Featuring elements of jazz, metal and progressive music, Scale the Summit has taken their music to the next level with the release of "The Collective." While most thought it would be nearly impossible for them to top their previous release, "Carving Desert Canyons," Scale the Summit has outstandingly overcome it.

One component I enjoy about "The Collective" is that each member shines equally throughout the album. The guitar, bass and drums are clearly present and heard in each track, and there are plenty of brilliant guitar solos and leading bass lines that really show off their musicianship on this album.

"The Collective" is what I would call a journey album. You must listen to it straight through—no pauses, no interruptions. Get settled in your car, pop "The Collective" in stereo, and drive around until it's over.

If you don't think a band can tell a story with their music, I am willing to vow that Scale the Summit will prove you wrong. The guitar riffs are extremely technical and the transitions are jaw-dropping.

I really don't understand how human beings can write music like this; it really is mind-boggling to me. But I am extremely grateful that I am able to appreciate this music and I hope that you take a chance to.

So I thank you, Scale the Summit—you have blown my mind again. I believe a key behavior that signifies a successful album is when the listener cannot stop listening to the album. In the first week that "The Collective" was released, I listened to it at least 10 times, and a month later, my ears are still feigning for it. So please, give Scale the Summit a listen; I guarantee you will not be disappointed.

Photo courtesy of MySpace.com

Scale the Summit releases album 'The Collective.'

New 'Downtown Battle Mountain' outdoes original

By Kevin Sterne
Staff Writer

Screamo, post hardcore, scene, whatever you call that angry music—most either love it or hate it. The genre is monotonous and unoriginal. Few bands really stand out because their albums lack creativity, talent or progression. A few have created great music: Underoath, Thrice, and Thursday, but they are few and far between.

Somehow, in 2007, a little band from Sacramento released a real gem that became a mainstay in any scenester's musical library: Dance Gavin Dance's "Downtown Battle Mountain" is a classic.

Now, five years later, after countless line-up changes, scandals, rumors and drug abuse, Dance Gavin Dance gathered that same legendary line-up and has released "Downtown Battle Mountain 2." And I'll tell you, it's just as good.

The album combines screaming, R&B, rap, progressive and funk to make something very original, creative and actually good! There are no filler intros or synth interludes here either. The band packed 11 songs with intense yet catchy guitar melodies, tight instrumentation, and thought-provoking lyrics.

Lead guitarist Will Swan writes both guitars—an impressive feat by anyone—and displays much originality and undeniable talent. His guitar parts seamlessly play off each other and have plenty of funk and R&B vibes. The rhythm section is tight and noticeable.

Where most bands have a bass that is nearly non-existent, the bass shines on this album. And the drumming is not just tons of double bass. There is technicality and life.

Vocally, the album features co-front men Jon Mess and Jonny Craig as well as Will Swan. Mess's lyrics are thought-provoking and interesting, taking a few listens to fully grasp. His screaming is actually diverse and easy on the ears. He doesn't jut sound like a guy throwing up into a toilet.

To contrast with Mess's harsh shoot are the Michael Jackson-like croons of Jonny Craig. His passionate soaring voice really helps this band separate itself from other acts. He is undeniably one of the better voices in music today. Even with all this, potentially the best part of the album is the rapping by guitarist Will Swan.

The album effectively puts an end to the whole past hardcore genre. No band is going to replicate what Dance Gavin Dance has been able to accomplish. In today's world of auto-tuned, over-programmed music, Dance Gavin Dance has managed to make something highly unique in a stale genre.

Bands like A Devil Wears Prada and A Day To Remember are a dime a dozen with mediocre musical ability. And with this being the band's fifth release, it shows they have proven longevity and creativity to keep the musical genius flowing. It's now time for this Sacramento band to get the respect it deserves.

Recommended tracks: "Spooks," "The Robot With Human Hair pt. 2.5," "Elder Goose" and "Heat Seeking Ghost of Sex."

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Wang Yidong (WYX, 2011), A Rose of Carnival (detail), 2010

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Elmhurst College

Women's Basketball

Lady Wolves 'pleased' despite loss at nationals

By Carlos Enriquez
Sports Editor

The 2010-11 season has come to an end for the Joliet Junior College women's basketball team.

However, head coach Shaun Sanderson and his team is incredibly pleased with how it turned out.

"I told the girls that I was very proud of them," said Sanderson. "To start the season 0-10 and to be one of eight teams playing at the National Tournament is an incredible task. We have to remember the things that made us successful and carry those things over to next year."

The Lady Wolves finished in seventh place at the NJCAA Division III Tournament, held in Rochester, Minn., with an overall record of 18-17, and an impressive conference record of 12-2.

After the 0-10 start to the season, JJC finished going 18-7 the rest of the way.

The team attributed the turnaround to the experience obtained by the 11 freshmen in the roster.

The team ended their season on a winning note by defeating New York's Suffolk Community College by a score of 81-54 on Saturday, March 12.

Freshman guard Keairra Collins led the team with 22 points. Also, sophomore guard Crystal Daniels finished with 20 points. Freshman forward Dominique Carr added 13 points, and freshman guard Celestra Warren chipped in with 10 points.

Although the Lady Wolves won their final game in the tournament, they lost the first two.

"We went back to playing like the team that started the season 0-10," said Sanderson.

"We weren't sharing the basketball," Sanderson continued. "We allowed Brookdale [New York] and Butler [Pennsylvania] to outwork us for rebounds and loose balls. We started the games with no sense of urgency, which in the end we weren't able to overcome. On the last day, we finally put it all together and played like the team that got us to the National Tournament."

In a season full of highlights, two things that stuck in the mind of the team were defeating top-ranked Rock Valley on their home court at the conference tournament, and reaching Nationals.

"I will never forget these players or this season," Sanderson said. "We learned you must enjoy the moment while you're at Nationals. You never know when you may be back. Seventy-five plus schools wish they could have been in our shoes."

Preparations for next season have already begun for the Lady Wolves. According to Sanderson, the players are working on maintaining good grades in order to have a chance to continue playing next season.

Spring workouts for the team will begin within the next two weeks.

Photo by Kat Boehle
Guard Celestra Warren jumps to obtain a rebound.

Guard Reomey Northington gets on the floor to obtain the ball again. *Photo by Kat Boehle*

Men's Basketball

Wolves fall short

By Eric Monahan
Photo Editor

The Joliet Junior College men's basketball season has come to an end.

The Wolves went 30-5 during the season. The team had a conference record of 13-1, repeating as conference champions and finishing seventh in the NJCAA Division III National Championship tournament, held in Loch Sheldrake, N.Y.

The Wolves won their final game of the three-game tournament on Saturday, March 12, with an 87-71 win over Mass Bay Community College of Massachusetts.

Brandon Redmond led the way with 30 points and 11 rebounds. Justin Reed scored 15 points and had 8 assists, while Andy Supergan totaled 13 points.

"We played well tonight," head coach Joe Kuhn said. "That first game against Sullivan definitely took a lot out of us. I am very proud of what this team has accomplished this season."

This is the third time in school history that a team has tied the school record for most wins in a season. The 2004-05 team and the 2009-10 team also finished with 30-5 overall records.

The Wolves had been coming off back-to-back losses to start the tournament.

On Thursday, March 10, the Wolves lost a heartbreaker to tournament host Sullivan County Community College in the opening round.

Elam and Redmond had 12 points each. Reed finished with 11 points, while Supergan chipped in with 10 points.

"I thought we played well defensively," head coach Joe Kuhn said. "We just had a stretch there where we could not get the ball in the basket."

The Wolves were defeated by State University of New York Delhi in overtime by a score of 82-80 on Friday, March 11.

Supergan paced the Wolves with 28 points. Elam had 18 points, while Redmond finished with 10 points.

"We fell behind early," Head Coach Joe Kuhn said. "We spent most of the game trying to catch up and just couldn't get over the hump."

Although the Wolves were not able to repeat as national champions, the team feels they had a remarkable season and look forward to starting next season off on the right foot.

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First baseman Amanda Reid slides into third base.

Photo by Kat Boehle

Softball season under way for Lady Wolves

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Photo Editor

On March 30, the softball team defeated non-conference opponent Prairie State College in a double-header.

In game one, JJC won by a score of 10-2. The hot bat of the Lady Wolves isn't just one hitter; it is a plethora of hitters leading the attack. Amy Paolini, Amanda Reid, Brittney Kesler, Melissa Gretz and Michelle Cordrey all had two hits each.

In game two, the Lady Wolves won an 11-inning thriller by a score of 5-4. The offense slowed and fatigue began to show from playing three straight days. However, the Lady Wolves remained together as a team and prevailed in extra innings. This brought their overall record to 5-19, with a 2-2 conference record.

On Tuesday, March 29, the Lady Wolves defeated Madison College in a N4C conference double-header match-up.

In game one, the Lady Wolves won by a 14-6 score. Kesler led the offense with 3 hits, including a grand slam, 5 RBIs, and 4 runs scored. Kesler really ignited the offense for the team. Her offensive spark influenced a Paolini home run in her first at-bat, while Tiffany Tutor added a double in the contest.

In game two, it was all JJC with a 22-2 score. Reid and Esparza both had 4 hits as Tutor finished with 3 hits.

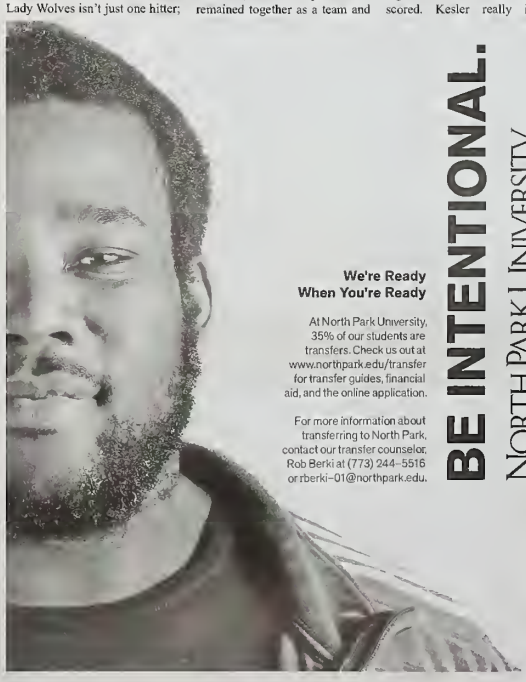
On Saturday, March 26, the Lady Wolves continued their season with an N4C conference double-header with College of DuPage.

Before the regularly scheduled game, the Lady Wolves finished their second game that they had previously started on March 7, which was called due to darkness.

JJC won by a score of 15-12. Gretz led the way with 3 hits, followed by Angela Brown with 2 runs for the Lady Wolves. Kesler and Reid both had two hits each.

In the first game of the scheduled double-header, College of DuPage took down the Lady Wolves by a score of 14-6. Paolini led the way with a double and a home run followed by Esparza and Reid with two hits each.

The Lady Wolves fell to DuPage in the second game by a score of 17-5. Paolini hit her second home run of the day.



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Upcoming Home Games

Baseball

April 3 – noon – vs. College of DuPage
April 8 – 3 p.m. – vs. Prairie State College
April 12 – 3 p.m. – vs. Kankakee Community College

Softball

April 8 – 3 p.m. – vs. Rock Valley Community College
April 13 – 3 p.m. – vs. Kankakee Community College
April 16 – 12 p.m. – vs. Harper College
April 18 – 3 p.m. – vs. Moraine Valley Community College

SPORTS

Outfielder Mark Kasper takes a slide into second base at the home game on March 30 against Kishwaukee College. *Photo by Kat Boehle*

Baseball

Wolves start season strong

BY CARLOS ENRIQUEZ
Sports Editor

The Joliet Junior College baseball team has gotten off to a great start. They are currently on a nine-game winning streak.

With a record of 14-6, the Wolves have gone all the way to the no. 3 ranking in the NJCAA Division III Poll. The Wolves were ranked no. 1 at the end of last week.

The team is definitely excited about the national respect they have been given.

"It's nice," said head coach Wayne King. "It's not what our main goal is. We want to win our conference, and get to the World Series. We definitely appreciate it, though."

The Wolves have shown this season that they can win games in more ways than one.

JJC proved it with a recent home game against Waubonsee Community College on Tuesday, March 29. The Wolves defeated the Chiefs by a final score of 1-0, although Waubonsee had the upper hand in almost every statistic of the game.

The run came in the bottom of the fourth inning after shortstop Tim Meyer grounded out to drive in first baseman Thomas Keating—who reached base on one of only three base hits for the team.

However, the real star of the game was starting pitcher Brett Evak. The sophomore out of Plainfield North had an impressive performance with a complete game shutout. Evak struck out seven batters. The only trouble for Evak came in the fifth and in the eighth innings as he allowed the first two batters to reach base on both occasions. However two timely double plays by his defense bailed him out.

"Brett pitched exceptionally well," said King. "He gave up eight hits, but he had a very good performance."

The Wolves proved the baseball cliché that sometimes one run is all you need.

JJC hit a rough patch during their spring break trip to Tennessee, going 1-5.

"It was a tough trip," said King. "It was still very early for us. We were playing everybody. Everybody was getting their swings."

King says that the staff is very pleased with the way the team is swinging the bat.

It seems like everything is coming together for the Wolves.

"If we do the little things, we'll be successful this year," said King.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

BY CARLOS ENRIQUEZ

First baseman Thomas Keating has been an offensive force for the Joliet Junior College baseball team in the early going. Through his first 19 games, the freshman out of St. Lawrence currently has a .387 batting average and has driven in a total of 19 runs, while scoring 17 runs himself. His best game so far came on Sunday, March 27, against Sauk Valley Community College. In that 16-0 Wolves victory, Keating went 2-3 with a double, triple and 5 RBI. Keating's early success recently led him to be named NJCAA Division III Player of the Week.

Thomas Keating

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

Amy Paolini has been a very consistent hitter for the Lady Wolves so far this season. The sophomore shortstop out of Lockport is currently tied for the team leader in home runs with 2, and leads the team with 12 RBI. Paolini is also leading all other JJC starters in hitting with a .258 batting average. Paolini pitched two scoreless innings on Wednesday, March 30, against Prairie State College and earned the win for the Lady Wolves. The team will look for Paolini to continue her strong hitting, if they are to be successful this year.

Amy Paolini

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Photo by Kat Boehle

Chance Manzo performs in a supporting role as Dan Christopher in recent production of "The Sparrow" that was presented by JJC Fine Arts from April 14-17. For more photos and a review, see page 10.

JJC choir to perform in NYC

Concert to celebrate works of Henry David Thoreau

BY RACHEL STELLA
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Members of the Chamber Singers and the Chorale, JJC's two vocal ensembles, will participate in the world premiere performance of Mark Hayes' "The American Spirit," a choral work based on the writings of Henry David Thoreau.

The performance will be held May 29 at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City. JJC choir members will combine with members of other choirs to form the Distinguished Concerts Singers International, which is organized by Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY). Hayes will be guest conducting his own composition.

Philip Spencer, Director of Choral and Vocal Music at JJC, is looking forward to the performance.

"I am very excited about participating in this premiere performance of a major new choral work," said Spencer, who will be singing along with his own choir members. "I have long admired the compositions of Mark Hayes, and I am looking forward to hearing his thoughts on the creation of this piece, and singing under his direction while in New York."

Thoreau was a 19th-century American author who held progressive views such as abolitionism, civil disobedience, environmentalism, nonviolent resistance and simple living.

His best-known works are his book "Walden," a reflection upon simple living in natural surroundings, and his essay, "Civil Disobedience," an argument for individual resistance to civil government in moral opposition to an unjust state.

"It should be a marvelous piece for the Memorial Day weekend, focusing on some great qualities of this country since its founding, and combining Early American hymn tunes with Mr. Hayes' own fresh, contemporary style," said Spencer.

The participating choir members have been rehearsing "The American Spirit" all semester, in addition to their repertoire for the JJC spring concert.

"It is quite an honor just to be invited to perform in New York City," said Jonathan Griffith, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor for DCINY. "The Joliet Junior College Chamber Singers and Chorale received this invitation because of the quality and high level of musicianship demonstrated by the singers and the exceptional recommendations given by Mr. Spencer's choral colleagues."

The Chamber Singers and Chorale will hold their spring concert May 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre. Entitled "Rule Britannia!", this concert will offer a variety of music from the British Isles and former colonies.

Tickets at the door are $5 general public, $4 seniors, students, JJC faculty and staff; and $2 JJC students.

District Champs

JJC team takes 1st in tech contest

BY KAT BOEHLE
Co-Editor-in-Chief

On Friday, April 13, Joliet Junior College's International Society of Automation team brought home first place from the District 6 Student Competition held at Mitchell Technical Institute in Mitchell, N.D.

Originating in 2009, JJC's ISA team had won third place at both the 2009 and 2010 competitions. This is the first time JJC's team has won first place.

The team is advised by adjunct technical professor Ed Meyers. Team members include technical students Kyle Andre, Keith Cannon, Bob Clark, and Tim Quigley.

The ISA is a global non-profit organization that sets the standards for automation professionals and helps professionals solve difficult technical problems. It has over 30,000 international members.

The competition is open to any two- or four-year technical school. In this year's competition, 15 teams competed. States in District 6 include Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Andre said the competition was broken up into five challenges throughout the day that consisted of design, construction and calibration scenarios. The time limit for each challenge was 45 minutes.

The first challenge was the practical analog exercise where several vendors brought in equipment with a challenge for each team to work on.

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EDITORIAL

Binge drinking not all fun and games

A popular scene for most college students: the house is packed with a group of people who are smiling and dancing, the beats flowing throughout the house. The counters are full of bottles of liquor and cases of beer. There are tables set out for beer pong and the cards are ready for the various drinking games that are to come in the night. Everyone in the crowd is holding red cups.

As summer approaches, scenes like this attract many college students who are eager to have a good time after their release from school. But students need to be aware of the dark side to these seemingly "good times."

The party progresses as the night continues, and the cups continue to get refilled again; the shots keep coming. Then people start fighting, making out, blacking out, passing out or vomiting.

What they don't realize is that they are experiencing alcohol poisoning, which is a common side effect of binge drinking. Binge drinking constitutes consuming five or more drinks on one occasion, according the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

The blurred vision, sweating, falling and vomiting are symptoms of alcohol poisoning, according the Mayo Clinic, a non-profit research organization. These symptoms are all your body's way of trying to fight off the alcohol.

This excessive drinking is very dangerous and has lead to 1,825 deaths annually in college students between the ages of 18-24, according to collegedrinkingprevention.gov.

The side effects of alcohol poisoning are devastating, if not fatal. Some people experience severe permanent brain damage and some people simply choke on their vomit when they pass out.

The people that remain conscious but mentally black out or the people who can hardly stand are in danger. Nationwide in one year, there will be 599,000 accidents, 97,000 reports of sexual abuse, and 3,360,000 DUIs among college students between the ages of 18-24, according to collegedrinkingprevention.gov.

The risk of catching a STD increases when someone is drunk. The NIAAA reports that, in a nationwide survey of college students, 400,000 admitted to having unprotected sex while intoxicated. What is even scarier is that a quarter of them stated they were too intoxicated to remember consenting to sex.

The ones who get in their cars after a night of drinking are not only a danger to themselves, but to others. Drinking decreases reaction time, blurs vision and decreases coordination. According to the group Mothers Against Drunk Driving, 43 percent of fatal traffic accidents were alcohol-related.

If you feel it necessary to drink alcohol, remember these tips: Drink plenty of water, be with people you trust, and have a designated driver. If you see someone who is cold, shaky, vomiting or unconscious and unable to wake up, call 911 immediately.

Be wise with your summer break. A fleeting "good time" is not worth the health and well-being of you or someone else. It certainly isn't worth the cost of a life.

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Love thy fellow Earth

BY CARLOS ENRIQUEZ
Sports Editor

Earth Day is coming up Friday, April 22.

That is a day that is very important to me, and it should be very important to everyone else as well.

First off, I consider myself to be an environmentalist.

However, I haven't always kept the environment on my mind.

It wasn't until a few years ago that I realized how important it was to keep our environment in mind for all of the choices that we make.

What does all this have to do with Earth Day?

Well, according to the magnificent and totally credible website Wikipedia, Earth Day is a day that is intended to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's natural environment.

In fact, many make it a weeklong event, and call it Earth Week.

As I already mentioned, the main purpose of Earth Day/Week is to promote awareness of our environment, and to promote the concept of "going green."

Some of the concepts promoted as part of going green are recycling, using energy efficiently, reducing or reusing disposable items, and reducing the consumption of meat.

Personally, I always make an attempt to recycle anything I can whenever I can; I try to carpool whenever possible; I try to avoid leaving appliances on when I am not using them; and I follow a vegetarian lifestyle, and am actually about to go vegan very soon.

Veganism is the elimination of use of animal byproducts in food and clothing, among other things.

After much thought, I realized that I couldn't consider myself an environmentalist or an animal rights activist until I eliminated my consumption of meat.

My main reason by far was being against animal cruelty, but after I realized that factory farming was one of the leading causes of global warming, that sealed the deal for me.

Here at JJC, we will be celebrating Earth Day with the help of Student Government.

The information on our website states, "Earth Day activities will occur on Thursday, April 21, beginning at 10 a.m. Events will include: 'Are you smarter than a Preschooler,' displays and educational information about how you can help save the earth!"

To be honest, I am actually kind of upset that the event will be after the production of this issue because I was looking forward to covering it.

Anyway, I believe that along with attending this event, we should all celebrate Earth Day by making a conscious attempt to recycle whenever we can.

JJC does a great job of endorsing this by placing recycling bins all throughout the campus.

Just the other day, I was walking out of class when a classmate of mine threw her plastic water bottle into the garbage can, although there was a recycling bin right next to it.

It's little things like this that can make a difference, and can easily be changed.

Along with recycling I think that it is important to try to reduce consumption of meat, at the very least for just this day.

Another thing we can all do for Earth Day or Earth Week is to write letters to our representatives in Congress in order to push the issue of attempting to embrace green energy such as solar and wind power over damaging resources such as fossil fuels, coal and oil.

Obviously, we only have one planet. It is our duty to appreciate its beauty and try to maintain it—on Earth Day, and every other day as well.

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The Blazer encourages participation from readers through letters. Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authencity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at F-1009.

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Thank you for the memories, JJC

Leaving the newspaper is a difficult thing for an EIC

BY RACHEL STELLA
Co-Editor-in-Chief

I can hardly believe this is the last piece I'll write for the Blazer. I'm excited to move on and transfer to Lewis University, but at the same time I'm sad to be leaving. The Blazer is the very first newspaper I've ever worked for, and it will hold a special place in my heart as long as I live.

After coming off of a rough year in 2009, I stepped back, simplified and streamlined many aspects of my life. I decided I was only taking one class at JJC in Spring 2010—only one, and it was going to be my very favorite subject: copy editing.

I had a blast in that class, finally finding what I loved to do. I spent the summer with starry-eyed dreams of being a copy editor someday, and I even got a small internship posting and editing press releases and scores from minor league sports teams online.

The Fall 2010 semester saw me excitedly enrolled in Professor Bob Marcink's newswriting and reporting class. Imagine my shock when—at the end of the first class period—Bob said to me, "Would you like to be co-editor-in-chief with Kat Boehle?"

WHAT? ME? I had written a few minor things for the Blazer in the past, but I didn't know anything about being part of a newspaper staff, much less having any kind of leadership position with one!

I was amazed, flattered and honored that someone like me, with almost no experience, would be asked to take on a position like this. After a few hours' hesitation, I accepted, and somewhere in the files of my computer's hard drive, I could hear my résumé giggling with delight.

I am so glad I took this opportunity. Being co-editor-in-chief has been an ideal balance between a challenge and a pleasure—everything that work ought to be, in my opinion.

I am proud to be part of the team whose newspaper took home first place for overall excellence this year.

Kat Boehle, thank you for all the hard work you do with the Blazer. Sometimes I consider with amazement how you're able to accomplish all that you do. You are a go-getter and will surely go far in your endeavors. You have remarkable research, reporting, photography and design skills that will attract many would-be employers. How's that for convergence?

Carlos Enriquez, thanks for writing stories that keep me informed on how our JJC Wolves are doing. Your reporting is clear, straightforward and engaging. Your sports stories have been some of those I've most enjoyed editing. Thanks for being there to talk about the Blackhawks and Cubs with me.

Tavia Hanrahan, you have a wonderful balance of people skills and work-focus. Thank you for keeping the mood upbeat, pleasant and motivating. Thank you for being so reliable in your work with our advertisers. You have the ability to treat people politely even while disagreeing with them—that is a worthy quality that will take you far.

Ryan Miller, thanks for your constructive ideas and your positive attitude. You contribute so much to our arts and entertainment section, and you've been such a help with the design aspect, making the Blazer look great.

Eric Monahan, thank you for the way you think of others and for your willingness to help out and get involved. You've helped make connections with the athletes, and you've really gotten them involved in your sports stories.

Haley Hubert, thanks for writing and editing. The Blazer is going to need your contributions even more next year. You've shown that you can write a variety of styles, from sports to news to reviews, as well as edit copy—a

See MEMORIES on page 4

What a long, strange trip it has been...

Sports editor says farewell to JJC

BY CARLOS ENRIQUEZ
Sports Editor

I feel like I changed a lot in my three years at JJC. I went from an 18-year-old kid who didn't know what he wanted to do with his life, to a 21-year-old kid who didn't know what he wanted to do with his life.

Not exactly for the same reasons, but I'll get into that later.

It wasn't until Spring 2009—my second semester—that I realized what major was for me.

I realized I could use my love of sports to make a living as a sports journalist.

I took Journalism 103 with Professor Bob Marcink that year, and the rest, as they say, is history.

I enrolled in Journalism 102 and 104 in Spring 2010. That was when I decided to join the school newspaper as a staff writer—thanks to the persistence of my girlfriend, Amanda.

The Blazer quickly became a second home for me, and one of my biggest regrets was not joining it sooner.

I still remember my first story about the women's basketball team. That story brought my first interview as well, with head coach Shaun Sanderson, to whom I owe a great deal of thanks for always being so open to talk to.

I quickly made a connection with Editor-in-Chief Jim Sheldon and Sports Editor Tommy Stokke. I definitely owe the two of you a great deal of thanks for everything you guys helped me out with. I know both of you are destined for great things in the field of journalism.

Later that spring, I attended the 2010 Spring ICCJA Conference with the rest of the Blazer staff, and it became one of the best experiences of my life.

After that semester, I decided to come back for a third year at JJC in order to become more involved with the Blazer.

I became the new sports editor as part of a basically brand new staff—all of whom I consider to be good friends of mine.

We all attended the 2011 ICCJA Spring Conference where I went on to win three second place awards for stories I wrote, and where, more importantly, the Blazer won best overall newspaper for our division.

Receiving the three second place awards was definitely something that was very humbling, and something I am very proud of.

Co-Editor-in-Chief Rachel Stella is, in my opinion, one of the best copy editors I've ever met. I know you will continue to bust out that red pen of yours when you go to Lewis, Rachel.

Production Manager Ryan Miller definitely helped out a lot when we were in need of a person to lay out the paper. You know, one of the most important keys to putting a newspaper together. I know you will do a great job as next year as well, and I think you have what it takes to eventually take charge as head of the Blazer.

Next is Advertising Manager Tavia Hanrahan. I want to thank you for motivating me into joining my second club/organization at JJC, The Atheist Perspective. Unfortunately, we know how that club turned out this year, but we can't say we didn't try to keep it alive. I'm really glad that you got the job at OSA. I hope you have good luck with your dream of going into public relations.

Of course there's Photo Editor and one of my sports writers Eric Monahan, or my protégé. Just kidding, Eric. I hope that you keep working at your craft so you can take over for me next year. And you know that if you ever need any help with your stories you can reach me.

Next is the person that I consider to be the MVP of the Blazer for the 2010-11 year. Co-Editor-in-Chief Kat Boehle, you were amazing all year. You always put in so much work every single production weekend, and you are one of the main reasons why we won first place this year.

Last but not least, the adviser Bob Marcink. You became someone who I consider a mentor, and I hope that you can still help me with my craft long after I have graduated from college.

Along with not joining the Blazer staff earlier, another one of my regrets at JJC is not writing enough non-sports-related

See TRIP on page 4

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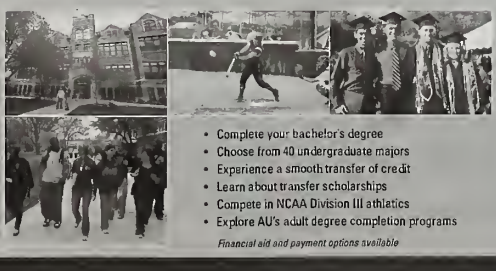

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MEMORIES from page 3

skill to take pride in, and one which no good newspaper should be without. Thanks for obsessing about the Blackhawks with me.

Bob Marcink, thank you so much for asking me to serve as co-editor-in-chief for the Blazer, and also for being a great adviser. Thanks for teaching me about AP Style and about how a newspaper runs. Working with you has been a lot of fun.

To everyone who has contributed this year, thank you so much. The Blazer relies on contributions from students, and you help us put out a good paper.

To the rest of the JJC community, thank you for your readership and feedback. It is appreciated very much.

I am really going to miss you, Joliet Junior College. We've had our ups and downs, but I've been enriched along the way. This is a great community college, and I will be so proud to call myself a JJC alum after this semester.

TRIP from page 3

articles.

I still share the same love of sports I had when I joined the newspaper, but since then I have become much more politically active.

So I leave the Blazer with this. I don't know what exactly I want to do with my life, but I know that I want to be involved in journalism.

I am currently struggling with the thought of being either a sports writer or a political commentator. Who knows, maybe I can go the Keith Olbermann route and do both.

That would actually be my dream.

What I do know is that whatever I do with my life, I owe a great deal of gratitude to JJC, the Blazer, the Blazer staff, my parents and girlfriend for their support, every coach that was kind enough to accept an interview and every teacher that helped me along the way.

Clarification

The previous editorial's statement "This may likely mean that the north side of campus will be closed during this period [of the J-Building renovations]" was purely speculative conjecture on the part of the editor and based on no authority. The J-Building and the north side of campus will not close completely during the renovations.

Students participate in National Day of Silence

By Kelsi Bertheaume

Staff writer

On April 11, the GLOW (Gay, Lesbian, or Whatever) club participated in the National Day of Silence to protest the way those of non-heterosexual orientation are treated in the community.

According to the website DayofSilence.org, "the National Day of Silence is a day of action in which students across the country take some form of a vow of silence to call attention to the silencing effect of anti-LGBT bullying and harassment in schools."

Though the actual National Day of Silence was officially April 15 tbis year, the JJC organizers observed it a few days early with an event on the bridge.

All students were invited to join to play silent bingo, as long as they would be quiet. In silent bingo, you didn't scream "Bingo!" when you won: instead you raised your hand and waited to be noticed by GLOW president Tim Kugelman, who was the silent caller for the game.

By being the caller, Kugelman faced a difficult challenge of how to call the numbers. By using PowerPoint, be put up the numbers he was supposed to be calling and the pattern to get for bingo on one slide.

Many prizes were awarded during the game, including T-shirts, Walmart gift cards of varying amounts, and plastic souvenir cups.

Participants commented on the event by writing on a sheet of paper.

"It helps show others the protest we are performing, so they understand that the GLBT committee is a nonviolent community," wrote student Patrice Avery.

GLOW adviser Evie Newman offered her perspective, also in writing.

"Day of Silence highlights the oppression that the GLBT community has suffered and continues to fight," wrote Newman. "It also helps to show the JJC campus that we have a strong student organization."

ICCJA Conference

Blazer takes first place in journalism competition

Newspaper staff takes home 11 awards overall

The Blazer took home 11 awards at the Illinois Community College Journalism Association's 36th annual spring conference on April 7-8, most notably winning the first-place Mike Foster Award for Overall Excellence in its division.

Held this year at Moraine Valley Community College, the ICCJA conference gives its 23 member schools the chance to enter their newspapers in a competition.

Division II, which includes all tri-weekly and monthly newspapers from schools with over 5,000 enrolled students, is the largest of tbe competition's three divisions.

"Every year when we go to the ICCJA conference in the spring, I tell the staff that however they place at tbe conference, I am proud of the work they do," said Blazer adviser Bob Marcink. "Yes, it's great to win first in our division—we've finished second several times, and hadn't won first place in our division since 1999—but taking first is just icing on the cake for me, if you will forgive my cliché."

The Blazer topped newspapers from Harold Washington College, Truman College and Rock Valley College to win first place.

First place winners in Division I (weekly and bi-weekly newspapers) and Division III (tri-weekly and monthly newspapers from schools with under 5,000 enrolled students) were Moraine Valley Community College and Illinois Valley Community College, respectively.

Members of the Blazer staff won individual awards as well.

Co-Editor-in-Chief Kat Boehle won five awards for editorial (third place), computer graphic (third place), photo spread (first place), sports photo (second place) and arts writing (honorable mention).

Sports Editor Carlos Enriquez took home three awards for sports news (second place), sports feature (second place) and sports opinion (second place).

Co-Editor-in-Chief Rachel Stella won one award for feature (second place).

Former sports editor Tommy Stokke won one award for sports feature (first place).

"I am most proud that [the staff members] take their roles as journalists seriously and that they put out an excellent newspaper," said Marcink. "They make my job as the adviser easy. But I will say this: they compete year after year against some excellent newspapers, and to take first in the largest division—11 scbools were entered this year—is an accomplishment they all should be very proud of."

"They make my job as the adviser easy."

Bob Marcink

If soccer is your game, the JJC Women's Soccer Team wants you. Open tryouts will be held July 26-28. Contact Head Coach Gino Di Nardo at gdinardo@jjc.edu or call (815) 325-7909.

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GLOW sponsors gay prom

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Photo Editor

The GLOW (Gay Lesbian or Whatever) club hosted a Gay Prom in the cafeteria April 9. The event lasted five hours and featured a drag show, dancing, food and a raffle.

The purpose of the Gay Prom was to provide a "fun GLBTQA safe evening" for JJC students, local high school students aged 17 and over, and community members, according to the JJC website.

GLOW used this event to celebrate "National Night of Noise," a counterpart to the National Day of Silence, which they observed two days later. Both events were to raise awareness of and protest bullying and mistreatment of GLBTQ students in schools.

The evening began with an amateur drag show, featuring performances by Ville Kissenger, Noah Nerdgasm, Tee Daddi, Lana Lane, Boom Boom LaRou, Sasha and Candi McGram.

The performers had previously signed up through GLOW's Facebook page to perform at the prom.

After the drag show, the time was opened up for dancing by all in attendance.

Food provided at the event was courtesy of the Culinary Arts Department. The food selections included pasta, meatballs, chicken teriyaki, desserts and punch.

GLOW held a raffle during the evening to raise funds for next school year

Toward the end of the prom, crowning of the drag king and queen and prom king and queen took place.

The drag king was Noah Nerdgasm and the drag queen was Boom Boom LaRou. This year's prom king and queen were Tim Kugelman and Jesi Hall.

Prom Queen winner Jesi Hall and Prom King winner Tim Kugelman. *Photos by Eric Monahan*

Boom Boom La Rou struts her stuff at the Amateur Drag Show.

Drag Queen winner Kandi McGram and Drag King winner Noah Nerdgasm.

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From left: Keith Cannon, Kyle Andre, Bob Clark and Tim Quigley accept 1st place plaque and ribbon at International Society of Automation competition held in Mitchell, N.D.

Photo courtesy of Kyle Andre

TECH from page 1

"This is to create a challenge that is not biased for schools or companies so that one school does not have any advantage over the others," said Andre.

After the analog exercise, students competed in the practical discrete/design exercise, where teams were given a written challenge that must be designed and built in the 45-minute time limit. This included digital and industrial controls sections.

Andre said JJC's team tied for first in the digital section, but because they got first in the industrial controls section, the team won first for the overall discrete exercises portion.

Then the teams that won first for the diserete/design exercises and the analog exercise faced off for the quiz bowl. In this challenge, each of the four team members of eaeh team are given a buzzer, and as questions are being read off, the first to hit their buzzer gets to answer the question. If the team member was wrong, then the other team gets a chance to answer the question.

JJC's team won the quiz bowl with a final score of 22-8, winning first plaee overall with the highest final score of all the teams at 216/250 points.

Andre said that they will know within a month whether the team will be competing at a national competition in Texas.

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Upcoming Fine Arts Events

Spring Festival of One Acts
April 29 – 7:30 p.m. – Fine Arts Theatre

JJC Community Band Spring Concert
May 1 – 3 p.m. – Fine Arts Theatre

JJC Jazz Band Spring Concert
May 6 – 7:30 p.m. – Fine Arts Theatre

JJC Chamber Singers and Choral Spring Concert
May 7 – 7:30 p.m. – Fine Arts Theatre

Musica Viva: Faculty Recital – The David Nuccio Jazz Ensemble
May 8 – 3 p.m. – Fine Arts Theatre

JJC Guitar and Percussion Ensembles Spring Concert
May 10 – 7:30 p.m. – Fine Arts Theatre

Student Honors Recital
May 12 – 7:30 p.m. – Fine Arts Theatre

Miller's Movies: must-see summer flicks

BY RYAN MILLER
Production Manager

May:

The Tree of Life (May 4) – The first movie of the summer that is on my list to see is actually a drama. Dramas are usually out of my element, but this is one of the few I've got to see. It stars Brad Pitt and Sean Penn in a story that takes place during the 1950s and revolves around three boys, the eldest of which witnesses the loss of innocence.

Although its release date is for the United Kingdom, I hope theaters here in the United States will pick it up as well.

Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (May 20) – The epic pirate adventure continues as Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) and Captain Barbossa (Geoffrey Rush) fight their way to the rumored fountain of youth. They must endure many obstacles, such as mermaids, zombies, Blackbeard (Ian McShane) and Blackbeard's daughter (Penelope Cruz).

This should be an interesting movie, seeing as it was directed by Rob Marshall—who was known for directing "Chicago."

The Hangover Part II (May 26) – You would think that Phil (Bradley Cooper), Stu (Ed Helms), Alan (Zack Galifianakis) and Doug (Justin Bartha) would have learned by now that having a bachelor party can be a dangerous thing… and yet they decide to go to the oriental Bangkok.

This time around, the party is for Stu's wedding, and the gang must find his soon-to-be-stepson, who is lost after a night of renegade drunken shenanigans. The plot so far seems very similar to the first, but nonetheless, I've got to see it.

Kung Fu Panda 2 (May 26) – Let's face it, folks—we all missed Jack Black playing a panda who loves the ancient art of kung fu, right? I thought so. Kung Fu Panda 2 continues the story of Po (Jack Black) and the furious five. This time around, he joins forces with some new kung fu masters in order to stop a nefarious villain threatening to destroy China and the sacred beloved art of kung fu.

June:

Cars 2 (June 24) – Lightning McQueen (Owen Wilson) and Mater (Larry the Cable Guy) are back again in this beloved Pixar sequel. This time, they go international and head to Japan for a race against other cars from all around the world in the World Grand Prix. It's soon discovered that someone is trying to "fix" the races, and that the "accidents" on the race tracks aren't exactly accidents. It's up to Mater and McQueen to find and stop whoever these villains are.

July:

Transformers: Dark of the Moon (July 1) Now, although I really disliked the second Transformers, I am still persistent to see this movie. I hope in good conscience that this will redeem the Transformers franchise and ultimately restore its good name.

The Autobots are back and still fighting off the vengeful Decepticons, who are determined for revenge against their fallen brothers since the last movie. The Autobots discover a Cybertronian spacecraft hidden on the moon and must discover the secrets it possesses before the Decepticons can.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 (July 15) – After seeing part one and how well they did with it, I am actually excited to see part two. Harry, Ron and Hermoine are back for the final chapter of their wizarding adventure. They must go back to Hogwarts to find and destroy Voldemort's last horcruxes.

Captain America: The First Avenger (July 22) – After being deemed unfit for military service, Steve Rogers (Chris Evans) volunteers for a top-secret research project that turns him into Captain America, a superhero dedicated to defending America's ideals.

I'm really excited and somewhat worried about how this movie will turn out. I'm excited because they're finally making a Captain America movie and because this movie will also tie in with the 2012 Avengers movie. However, I am worried, because, from the trailers and costume designs I have seen, it may not be as good as I will hope it to be. Only time will tell for this epic superhero movie.

Cowboys and Aliens (July 29) – I know this movie sounds super cheesy, but from what I have seen, it actually looks like a really good movie. Not only do the action scenes look good, but it also stars the legendary Harrison Ford and Daniel Craig. Don't knock this movie until you've actually seen it.

August:

Rise of the Planet of the Apes (August 5) – An origin story set in present-day San Francisco, where man's own experiments with genetic engineering lead to the development of intelligence in apes and the onset of a war for supremacy.

When I first heard of this being in production a few months ago, I shrugged it off as "whatever, just another remake." But the more I have read into and seen the trailer, plus finding out who'll be starring in it—James Franco and Tom Felton (Malfoy from Harry Potter)—I became more eager to want to see it.

Graphic by Kat Boehle, photos courtesy of IMDb.com

Clockwise from top-left: The Hangover Part II, Captain America: The First Avenger, and Cars 2.

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Earth Day
April 21 – 10 a.m. – Bridge
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship: Easter Celebration
April 21 – 2 p.m. – South Bridge
Poetry in Translation: Readings and Discussion
April 21 – 7 p.m. – Library
Spring Fling, Day 1: Photos and Music Videos
April 26 – 11 a.m. – Center Bridge
Juried Exhibition Award Ceremony and Reception
April 26 – 7:30 p.m. – Fine Arts Theatre
Spring Fling, Day 2: Mission Improv
April 27 – noon – Center Bridge
Spring Fling, Day 3: Impressionist Brandon Styles
April 28 – 12:15 p.m. – Center Bridge
Poets & Profs: Looking at the Iliad: Film and Discussion
April 28 – 7 p.m. – D-2001
Third Annual JJC Foundation 5K Run/Walk
April 30 – 9 a.m. – Main Campus
American Red Cross Blood Drive
May 2 – 9 a.m. – Center Bridge
PB&J Days
May 9 and 10 – 11 a.m. – Center Bridge

'The Sparrow' takes flight at JJC

Review By Haley Hubert **Photos by Kat Boehle**

If you're looking for a creative and engaging performance, this student production of "The Sparrow" ranks high on the list of quality shows put on by the JJC theater department.

Throughout the one hour and 50 minutes of performance, there was not once a lack of intriguing dialect or performance. It was as if each student had fully embraced his or her role and helped make the performance come to life.

"The Sparrow," which originates from the House of Blues in Chicago, was debuted at JJC for the first time this spring. It's safe to say that it was a success.

As I walked into the theater to watch this performance, I wasn't expecting to particularly care for it. I've never been one for theater productions, so I was preparing to spend most of the evening yawning and fighting sleep.

However, from the moment I walked into this play, I was drawn in. There was something about this play that seemed to be able to reach every single audience member; small children seemed to be fascinated with the "super powers;" adults seemed interested in the involving plot; and the teenagers of the audience seemed to fawn over the romance snippet that was included.

The use of props and scenery in this play was by far the most creative I've ever seen. Props were carried on and offstage by the actors themselves, and a screen was used to produce a few special effects.

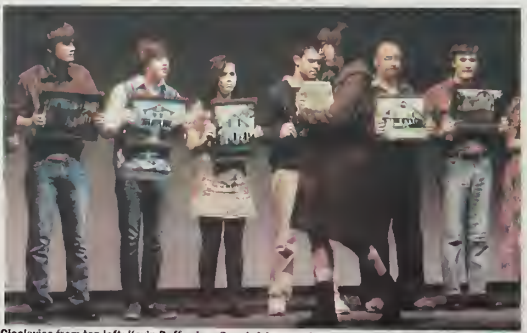
One of the more common special effects used in the play was the illusion that the main character, Emily Book, was flying. Combined with the computer images and the audience's imagination, it made for a very creative and interesting quirk that seemed to keep the audience very interested.

Each and every actor deserved to be credited with an "A+" performance. Each character was given depth, emotion and great personality that made each one appealing or unappealing to the audience. I felt as if I were watching a very enticing movie; I found myself drawn to certain characters and getting very involved with the plot as each character added something special to the play.

My favorite scene in the play wasn't one that was very crucial; it was the basketball scene. The cheerleader and basketball scene was very realistic. I enjoyed the switch between teams with the small group of actors who were playing as basketball players, and despite the fact that there wasn't gym equipment they still made the game seem very real.

Costumes were changed very quickly to make it seem like there were two teams indeed facing off against each other. The cheers from the cheerleaders made the scene much more realistic.

All in all, I give this production a 10 out of 10 stars. The creativity and acting spoke volumes for this production.



Clockwise from top left: Kevin Duffy plays Coach Adams as he pumps up the basketball team before a game, William Smith plays Albert McGuckin as he gives a corsage to Amanda Perri in her role as Emily Book, Faith Barry in her role as Charlie as he chastises Emily Book, Emily Book walks down a "street" as actors represent houses. And finally, Perri as Emily Book performs a dance that represents flight.

Album Review

Listeners soothed by Minus the Bear

Progressive rock band from Seattle releases new album 'Planet of Ice'

By Kevin Sterne
Staff Writer

How many of you reading this have actually heard of Minus the Bear? Well, I am sorry to hear that.

Spreading their prog-rock grooves all the way from Seattle, Wash., the five-piece band has released four full-length albums that you have probably never heard. Their most recent, "Omni," was released a little over a year ago and has been garnering considerable play time on my iTunes, but it's another album of theirs that takes the cake as my favorite.

After a few listens of "Planet of Ice," it's easy to see that the band was onto something. Delving deep within the record, the listener discovers that these ten densely-layered tracks might even be the best this Seattle band has ever made.

With "Planet of Ice" comes a densely-capped flurry of sounds that dazzle as well as chill. Every instrument is flawlessly crafted into each song, making for an overall effort with not even subtle weaknesses.

The progression this band has made remains remarkable with every instrument improving in spite of a member change at keyboard. From the video game-esque synthesizer that erupts to start the album to the guitar onslaught that ends it, every instrument shines. Handclaps, a xylophone, a saxophone and piano create a variety of sounds on the record.

Jake Snider brings an "A" game of darkly mysterious sex-infused lyries. Delivered with just the right touch of urgent calling and soothing sensitivity, Snider captivates listeners each step of the way.

He carries listeners on a rollercoaster ride with epics "Burying Luck" and "Double Vision Quest." Spacey numbers like "White Mystery," "Dr. L'ling" and "Part 2" relax but still mystify.

On guitar, he keeps the groove that is cohesively paired with lead guitarist Dave Knudson.

Snider again improves on the axe with his calming—and at times subtle—rhythms and shows he holds his own instrumentally as well as vocally with the balancing act on this album.

Guitar master Dave Knudson simply works magic throughout the record. His delay-infused riffs grab the listener, carrying him or her with dancing effect-laden melodies.

Physical playing ability cannot be overshadowed by tricks, however. This guy writes licks that leave you frozen in the dark.

"Knights," a single accompanied by a near-acid tripping music video, provides a perfect example of what Knudson cooks up on this album. Listeners can feast on tracks like "Dr. L'ling" and "Double Vision Quest" for Knudson's superb handiwork. Frankly, it's hard to believe Knudson's oh-so-sexy guitar could improve, and the ice planet might even have him at his best.

Minus the Bear releases their fourth album since 2001. *Photo courtesy of Minus the Bear*

Drummer Erin Tate's tightly-wrapped beats provide a perfect foundation on the entire album. All other instrumentation nestles nicely in between the snare taps.

But his work is anything but background noise on the planet. A stylized jazz feel can be found throughout the album, creating many toe-tapping numbers. In some cases the sound is almost dance-provoking.

Percussion flows smoothly throughout the record, with timely surprise bursts scattered all over. These bursts can be found in the electric drum variety in songs like "Dr.L'ling" and in timely fills like those in "Knights."

Much like the rest of the band, Tate's efforts on this impressive record have only improved since 2005's equally impressive "Menos El Oso."

With all the loud eruptions created by the other members, bassist Corey Murchy provides just the right low-rolling subtleties.

Simply put, he is the perfect third guitar. With Knudson's bright delayed melodies and Snider's calming chords, Murchy finds his niche with his low base tones. Listen hard enough and Murchy delivers just as well as the fellow guitarist.

Simply tune into "White Mystery" to immediately lock into a sexy bass-walk that is sure to provoke. Captivating bass lines are often tough to find in a collective effort, especially with guitarists that steal much of the attention, but "Planet of Ice" is full of them.

Finally, to pull all of the planet's sounds together and truly capture the sound of sex and winter, there is Alex Rose's keyboard. Beginning with synthesizer tells immediately what Minus the Bear was up to on this record.

They also introduce the newest member of the band after former keyboard and backing vocalist Matt Bayles left to pursue a career as a producer (post-hardcore fans are drooling in anticipation of Bayles' work on Dance Gavin Dance's future release).

But this is where Minus the Bear has improved the most. Rose brings a dark, more mature sound to the ivories that had not been developed on past LPs and EPs. He's able to create more than just ambient tones, but also subtle piano work on "Knights" and synthesizer waves on many titles, including "When We Escape" and "Lotus."

His blanket of sound ties every bit of ambiance together, creating an open, cool darkness that inexplicably explains the wintery feel of this record.

Rarely can music capture whole seasons, but Minus the Bear has managed to do it with a peddle-to-the-floor enthusiasm that bursts throughout "Planet of Ice."

This wintery record stands as their darkest yet, but carries with it a sound that cohesively captures the band at their best.

Every aspect of this LP finds its way to the top of the ranks, creating—undeniably—this quintet's best work. Each song is jig-sawed together perfectly to entertain from start to finish.

Albums with such perfect mixing of songs that generate so much playback value are nearly impossible to find. We all have our list of gems out there. It's now time to add "Planet of Ice" to that list.

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Crystal Rodriguez '11

'Good Health' is the definition of true indie music

By Kevin Sterne
Staff Writer

The term "indie" is pretty ambiguous. It can describe all spectrums of music these days and gets tossed around like a beach ball at a Nickelback concert.

Seriously, though, I can mention bands like Good Old War, Neutral Milk Hotel and Silversun Pickups, and someone is going to say they are "indie" for whatever reason. But being truly independent gives the artist 100% control of their work. This approach really allows for the most creative music to be unleashed, but it entails a lot of work and artists who do it really deserve a lot of respect.

So without further ado, I'd like to introduce Zachary Garren and his project Good Health.

You probably have never heard of him and that's okay. Hailing *from California, he has released* six full albums in only two years with little more than a guitar and a Macbook.

He's definitely productive, an over-achiever even, but how's the music?

Well I'll tell you—it's excellent. His second album, appropriately titled "II," features some groovy acoustic guitar work, catchy lyrics and an overall music experience that is riddled with nostalgia from the first listen. Chocked full of passion and easy to listen to, Good Health's "II" is nothing short of beautiful.

From only the first track, you get a sense of what Garren is all about. He starts off with a simple arpeggiated guitar lick that smoothly changes to him "oooing" and "ooohing" over a funky verse. The song perfectly captures what he does for much of the album: be really unique but also simplistic, catchy, and fun.

The next two songs are acoustic numbers, like much of the album, but have their own twists and turns, like the energetic ending to the track "Knowledge/the Opposite of Pain." Most of the song is a melancholy acoustic tune, but ends with a wild onslaught of vocal onomatopoeias and finger snaps. Unique and fun indeed.

He mixes up the whole album in this fashion with two contrasting interludes. "Pure" is vibrant and beautiful, like a spring rain; while the hard-hitting "Brains" leaves you feeling caught up in a winter *hailstorm.*

"Mountains & Oceans" opens with lyrics of a dull winter, and you'd think Garren did this on purpose. You get the sense of nature—not just from the music's earthy sound, but also from the raw recording. The acoustic guitars are rough and realistic, untouched by perfecting technologies, and his vocals aren't sacrificed to cheap tricks like auto-tuning.

All the elements of the entire album are so pure and organic, as if Garren plucked them straight from the earth. Now that sounds pretty "indie."

With this natural, raw feel of the album also comes a more electric side. Take, for example, the pre-closer "Let's Slit Our Throats," which is so reminiscent of a video game that it sounds straight out of Zelda.

Then there is the spacey interlude in the closer, "Life Is But a Dream." In some ways, these interludes seem almost out of place on the album, but really, they only show off the creativity of Good Health.

I would describe Good Health somewhere in the vein of Animal Collective because of the constant progression and experimentation with sound. Garren has six albums and they are all different from the last.

Collectively, this album and much of Good Health is catchy, raw, unique and downright fun. You can't escape the earthy feel of this album, or the urge to hum to every lyric or snap your fingers to each beat.

Garren gets music. He understands the importance of this shared experience through sound waves. All of his music is free for download, but support is necessary for him to make more great albums like "II."

It's now time to sift through the ambiguity and give this "indie" artist a listen. You won't be disappointed!

Recommended: the album from start to finish, the film "Hot Rod." Not recommended: music by Nickelback.

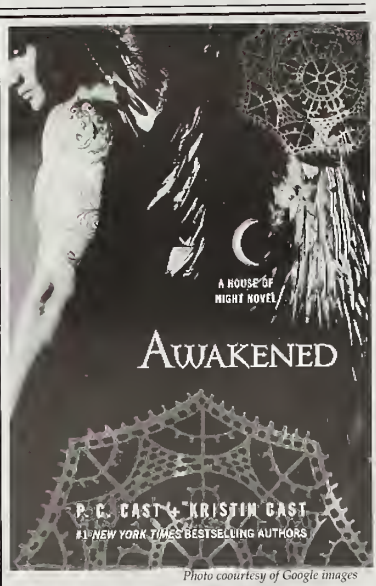

Photo courtesy of Google images

'Awakened' is the eighth book in a twelve-book series.

Become 'Awakened' by P.C. Cast's latest novel

By Ashley Murray
Staff Writer

"Awakened" by P.C. Cast and Kristin Cast is a good book by an author some of us may know and love. I found the beautiful white wing on the cover to be quite exquisite.

"Awakened" is the eighth House of Night book in a planned series of 12. In order for readers to follow along in this book, they must start from the first book, entitled "Marked," and work their way up. It is a story that begins where the last book ended.

The novel opens in a magical castle, where Zoey Redbird starts to realize that everything she needs is right in front of her. She also realizes that the guy she loved is never coming back and that she is no longer alone.

I can really connect with this book because I feel like I, myself, am Zoey Redbird. I can see myself in Zoey's body and I can feel her pain and vengeance while she deals with Neferet, the queen of darkness, and her sidekicks, the Raven Mockers.

I give this book a deserving 10 stars because this book transitioned well from the previous novel. The story was released in January 2011. This series started in 2007.

I encourage you to go out and read "Awakened." This book will keep you on the edge of your seat. It opens with an attention-getter that can really keep you going. If you have read the first book of the series, then you can kind of tell what will happen next.

This book is filled with adventure and will keep your attention until the end. The storyline from past House of Night installments flows perfectly with the plot of "Awakened."

Overall, this book was nothing short of flawless. There were no missing characters and readers would be able to follow the storyline easily.

P.C. Cast is a great author, who was born right here in Illinois, and she writes these books with her daughter Kristin. Besides the House of Night books, she also has written other books including "Goddess of the Rose," "Goddess of Light," and "Goddess of Spring," plus many more.

Readers should watch out for the ninth House of Night book titled "Dragon's Oath," which comes out in July 2011.

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'Howl' highlights National Poetry Month

By William Mallady
Staff Writer

In honor of National Poetry Month, there was a screening of the movie "Howl" starring James Franco on April 12.

The film, based on Allen Ginsberg's "Howl," one of the most infamous poems of the 20th century, began production on the 50th anniversary of the poem's publication, but was released last year.

A brief introduction to the movie states that everyone who is depicted in the movie actually spoke the words they are depicted as haven spoken; "In that way", the introduction goes on, "this is like a documentary."

Centering on not only the notorious first reading of the poem, the movie also reconstructs Ginberg's life and the obscenity trial surrounding the publication of the book "Howl and Other Poems."

After its publication, an attempt was made to export the book. On the basis of explicit references to both betero- and homosexual sex, as well as reference to illicit drugs, the book was seized by customs officials.

A subsequent obscenity trial was brought against bookstore owner and publisher Lawrence Ferlinghetti.

A panel of nine literary experts was brought forth to testify on the book's "literary merit" (or perceived lack thereof). Eventually, backed by the American Civil Liberties Union, Ferlinghetti won the case, with Judge Clayton Horn ruling the work had "redeeming social importance."

After the showing of the movie, English professors Adam Heidenreich, Bill Yarrow, Mike Hainzinger and Andrew Lenaghan answered questions about the poem and spoke on Ginsberg's life. Also discussed were works by other Beat generation authors, and the ideology of the movement.

Ginsberg led an usually liberated, fascinating life. The film portrayed his bizarrely poetic nature well, and the discussion afterward brought further insight into the life of this strange man.

James Franco stars as Allen Ginsberg in the 2010 release "Howl."

Photo courtesy of IMDb.com

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Outfielder Brittney Kesler takes a swing against Rock Valley College at a home game on April 8. *Photo by Kat Boehle*

Lady Wolves hitting their stride

BY CARLOS ENRIQUEZ
Sports Editor

The Joliet Junior College softball team has appeared to have finally gotten things going in the right direction this season.

After a dismal 0-17 start to the 2011 season, the team has gone 9-7 since then to a current overall record of 9-24. They have also played much better in conference games, going 6-4.

Most recently, the Lady Wolves were swept in a twin bill against the Kankakee Community College Cavaliers on Wednesday, April 13.

The team was unable to really get anything started on offense during the two games of double-header.

The Lady Wolves lost the first game by a final score of 7-0, and were defeated in the second game by a score of 9-0.

The team was just coming off another doubleheader performance, with much better results, against the South Suburban College Bulldogs on Wednesday, April 6.

In game one, the Lady Wolves won by a final score of 2-1.

Gardner-South Wilmington's outfielder Melissa Gretz, first baseman Amanda Reid from Lockport Township, and utility player out of Lincoln-Way Central, Samantha Fletcher, all had one hit each.

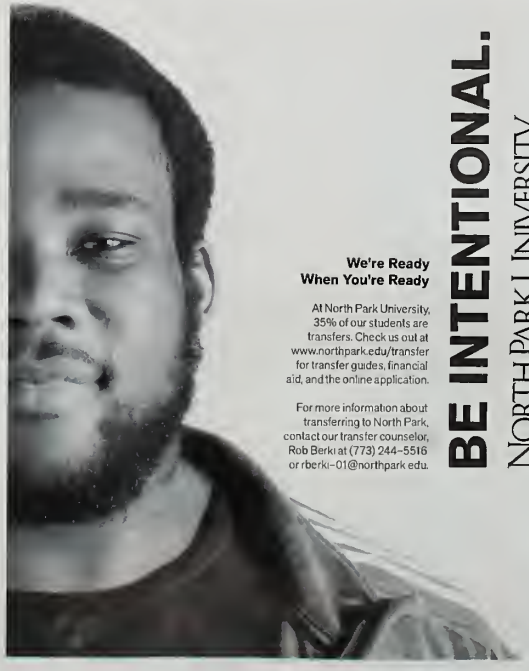
The Lady Wolves dominated game two, with a final score of 14-1.

Outfielder Brittney Kesler was perfect at the plate, going 4-for-4 with a double and two RBI. Shortstop out of Lemont, Amy Paolini, hit three doubles and totaled 8 RBI, while infielder out of Gardner-South Wilmington Jamie Esparza finished with three hits. Reid and Gretz had two hits each.

Although the team has still struggled to get consistant play out of all facets of the game, they have played better as of late, even with the most recent loss.

JJC will look to keep their momentum going in order to have a strong finish to the season, leading to the playoffs.

The Lady Wolves will try to get back on the winning trail at home on Friday, April 22, against the Triton College Trojans.



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April 22 – noon – vs. Harper College
April 29 – 3 p.m. – vs. Olive-Harvey College
May 6 – 3 p.m. – vs. Elgin Community College
May 8 – noon – vs. Rock Valley College
May 12-15 – Region IV Tournament

Softball

April 22 – 3 p.m. – vs. Triton College
April 27 – 3 p.m. – vs. McHenry County College
April 30 – noon – vs. Black Hawk College
May 6 – 10 a.m. – Region IV Tournament
May 7 – 10 a.m. – Region IV Championship

SPORTS

Outfielder Kevin Davis slides safely into third base against Kishwaukee College on March 30. *Photo by Kat Boehle*

Wolves at 24-12 despite tough weekend

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Photo Editor

Coming off losses to confrence opponent Triton College on Sunday, April 10, and non-conference opponent Oakton Community College on Monday, April 11, the JJC baseball team was ready to start another winning streak.

On Tuesday, April 12, the Wolves resumed winning, defeating Kankakee Community College by a score of 3-2.

Kankakee opened up the scoring with a run in the first and second innings. Both runs were unearned and were held scorcless the rest of the game.

"It was one of the ugliest college games I've ever coached," said head coach Wayne King. "There were as many errors as there were hits."

After Wolves catcher Ryan McMahon struck out and reached first base on a dropped third strike, first baseman Thomas Keating ripped an RBI double into an outfield gap. The Wolves never looked back from that point, scoring two more runs to take the lead, 3-2.

Keating led the offense for the Wolves with two hits. Infielder Cole Judy and outfielder Bryan Davis also doubled in this contest.

Chris Skiniotes, called "Skinny" by his teammates, was the starter on the mound for the Wolves. Skiniotes pitched five solid innings with four strikeouts.

"We rode him as far as we could," said King. "His pitch count was becoming a factor, and we got exactly what I wanted."

Alex Parks then relieved Skiniotes and pitched 2 1/3 innings of scoreless relief before Justin Troyner came in for the final 1 2/3 innings to seal the win for the Wolves.

"We were fortunate to win," said King. "It's unpredictable. There were mistakes that we took advantage of, and sometimes that's how baseball rolls."

Assistant coach Gregg Braun agreed with King that a come-from-behind win wasn't ideal.

"The team knew it had to play better," said Braun.

The Wolves also won a JV game agaist Benedictine University on Wednesday, April 13.

A JV game does not count record-wise, but it is a game that counts to the players. JV games give the coaches an opportunity to see players who don't normally start in simulated game action, while the games give the players an opportunity to show what they can do in live situations.

"We get to play certain individuals [who are not regular starters]," said Braun. "It's a nice opportunity."

The Wolves have been enjoying increased camaraderie with each other as the season progresses.

"The games have jelled freshman and sophomores both on and off the field," said Braun.

It is clear that the team members support each other both on and off the field. The team can often be found on the south bridge talking about the previous day's game or the game ahead.

The Wolves suffered a loss against Kishwaukee College on Thursday, April 14. On Sunday, April 17, the Wolves also lost to Madison Area Technical College in a doubleheader.

The Wolves currently hold a 24-12 overall record, going 3-3 in conference play so far.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

BY CARLOS ENRIQUEZ

Freshman outfielder out of Urbana, Trey Russell, has been on fire at the plate for the Wolves. Through his first 24 games, Russell had a .386 batting average with a home run and 15 runs driven in. Russell had quite a day during a doubleheader on Sunday, April 10, against Triton College. Russell hit his first home run of the season in the first game, but he really opened some eyes during the second game. In game two, he went 5-5 with 4 doubles and 5 RBI.

Trey Russell

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

Infielder Jamie Esparza has been one of the most consistent hitters for the Lady Wolves this season. The freshman out of Gardner-South Wilmington currently holds a .275 batting average and has driven in 8 runs. Esparza had a very good game at the plate on Wednesday, April 6, against South Suburban College in game two of a doubleheader, going 3-3. Esparza had another clutch game on Tuesday, March 29, going 4 for 5 and scoring 3 runs while driving in one run against Madison Area Technical College.

Jamie Esparza

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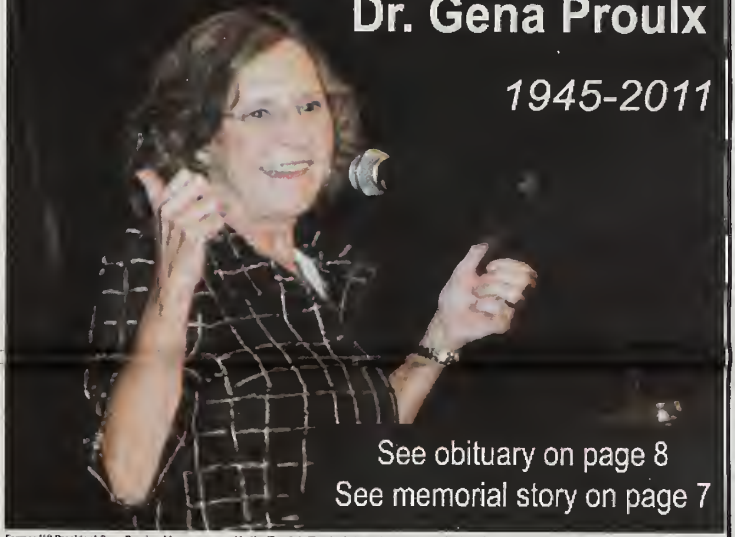
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2011 VOLUME 84 ISSUE 1

Loss of our president

Dr. Gena Proulx

1945-2011



See obituary on page 8
See memorial story on page 7

Former JJC President Gena Proulx addresses a crowd in the Fine Arts Theater in her role as ambassador for JJC. *Photo courtesy of JJC website.*

Nationwide search begins

BY ISOM JACOBS
Staff Writer

The Association of Community College Trustees is conducting a nationwide search for a new president for Joliet Junior College after the passing of JJC President Dr. Gena Proulx.

The ACCT will create a profile development to find a new president, as stated on their website, such as demographics, student enrollment, and budget in order to find presidential candidates.

Student Trustee Kayla Randolph-Clark explains how JJC is one of the oldest community colleges in the country, which would make being the president a very sought after position. This will attract candidates that are more likely to be of higher quality.

According to Randolph-Clark candidates who have experience of being a president might be heavily favored over other positions of administration due to the amount of projects goals that must be met.

In addition to the project goals the new president must work with the senior leadership team and make sure the goals of the master plan—set by the Board of trustees— will be achieved.

"This is one of the most important decisions for all of us and it will decide the direction of the college for years to come," said board chair Barbara DeLaney.

An important factor for the new president would be to make a smooth transition into office while staying on track of developing the college and students.

The ACCT will soon find the eight to ten most qualified candidates for a confidential interview, then recommend the final candidates to the board for consideration. This process is designed to find the best possible candidate.

The evaluation will be primarily based on the desired criteria that will be identified during the analysis of the institution.

Randolph-Clark believes that the goal deadline for a new president could be by January. This is not a guarantee, because nothing is certain and finding a new president will be tough work.

New Campus Center opens

BY MELISSA MAGNUS
Photo Editor

On June 17, 2011, Joliet Junior College began the process of moving into its brand new Campus Center. Now, three months later, over 26 departments, several student service centers, and the new JJC bookstore are in full use of the students and faculty here at the school.

JJC vice president of administrative services, Tammy Rust, took part in most of the planning and success of the Campus Center's final year of construction.

"The campus center was well planned when I arrived at Joliet Junior College thanks to my predecessor, Dave Agazzi," said Rust. "I have been here for the final construction year, the move into the new building and now the follow up that inevitably occurs at the end of the project."

All of the brand new Campus Center's departments and offices officially opened in late July leaving students, visitors and staff with about 115,000 square feet spread out over three floors of innovative and newly constructed space to utilize.

The new building features all student service departments including financial aid, registration, and admissions offices. It also has LEED-certified green roofs, and even additional parking.

Those attending JJC are also able to enjoy the new cafeteria, which includes an outdoor dining area, and also indoor access to both S and C buildings.

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EDITORIAL

Former JJC President Gena Proulx will be missed

As seen on the front page this issue, Joliet Junior College President Dr. Gena Proulx died on Aug. 12 after a courageous three-year battle with fallopian tube cancer.

For those who knew Gena, he or she will understand when we say that Gena was one of the strongest student advocates JJC ever had.

Despite her extremely busy schedule as president of the college and advocate for cancer research as she was undergoing cancer treatment herself, Gena was always there for her students.

Whenever she could, Gena could even be seen at sporting events to cheer on *her Wolves.*

Gena was also one of the Blazer's biggest fans and supporters and we thank her so much for that.

Due to all the amazing things that people have said about Gena at her memorial and in interviews, we know that not only will the Blazer miss her, but the whole college will miss her dearly.

Gena also had quite an impact on the presidents of fellow community colleges and universities in the region.

As the president of the University of St. Francis, Michael Vinciguerra said, "I never saw her do these wonderful things for self glory – she was never one to use tbe word 'I.'"

One of the biggest things that Gena did during her short five years here at JJC was to lead the master plan *construction that includes* the new Campus Center.

When the master plan was created, it was not designed just to prepare for future enrollment growth, but it was developed specifically with current students in mind.

Although all the orange construction signs around campus may seem inconvenient, this is so that JJC can grow to accommodate regional growth and be more convenient for students.

Joan Tiemey, the senior executive assistant to the president, said that what Gena most looked forward to in the new Campus Center was not a new office or board room, but the new "student street" where students could get all of their services in one convenient place.

Gena's passion did not *stop at students, though.* She was also striving for JJC to become a more environmentally friendly campus and belped create JJC's first-ever sustainability committee. Not only was she looking at the Campus Center to be more convenient for students, but she also wanted it to have a smaller carbon footprint.

The Blazer message to you is this: even if you did not have the honor to personally know Gena, please do not pass her off as "just another president at the school you went to."

Gena deserves to be remembered for all the amazing things that she did in her short time at JJC.

Every time you walk through the campus center, remember to tbink about tbe strong woman who kept you in mind even when the building was still in the planning stages, Dr. Gena Proulx.

OPINION

Nation Pays Tribute

9/11 should always be remembered

BY KELSI BERTHEAUME
Staff Writer

Many people have different memories of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack and it is different for each and every one of them.

Some people may have been at work, school or at home. Some people were working at Joliet Junior College during this time.

From what I remember I was only 10-years-old and did not understand what was going on. My school was showing it on the televisions and my classmates were asking questions about what happened.

Some people saw it happen live while others saw it on TV, but it all affected us in one way or another. Later it affected us in new ways. For example, now we have greater security systems in airports and other places.

At the 9/11 memorial ceremony at JJC on Sept. 9, Deputy Chief Paul Martin of the Chicago Fire Department was a guest speaker and said, "Red, white and blue, the colors of the flag . . . everyone was wearing them while tbey worked at Ground Zero."

I appreciate them for wearing our flag, because it showed how they represented the country and what it meant to them. The flags were wom in grief for those who died that day and for those who helped.

Many people have sacrificed their lives for our country and continue to die each day. We respect and honor those who protect and serve our country, keeping us safe while they risk their lives, and we thank them for that.

9/11 was a bad day for our country, but we have changed for the better and are a safer community due to this. Hopefully we can protect our country from these attacks and prevent something like 9/11 from ever happening again.

I thank those people again and again for helping and serving for their country to protect us. Thank the men and women service members in Illinois and police and firefighters of the country for all they do.

This tragedy will always be in the minds of tbe JJC community and we will never forget it.

As Martin said, "it will always be back in our minds for the rest of our lives." That is true. It should be remembered every day until we die.

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Local farmers meet for JJC fall festival

BY HUNTER THOMAS
Staff Writer

Joliet Junior College hosted its first-ever fall festival and farmers market on September 8 at the Greenhouse Facility at the Main Campus on Houbolt Road.

The event was packed with local farmers and other producers of sustainable food seeking to raise awareness for the communities many locally grown food suppliers.

Several different farms from around Grundy, Will and LaSalle counties were on hand to offer various kinds of vegetables, flowers and meat that were all grown and fed organically on their respective farms.

Besides all the local farmers, a blueberry farm from Michigan, with the help of JJC's culinary students, served up many different blueberry based foods.

Some of the dishes included blueberry cobbler with blueberry ice cream, blueberry beef jerky and many different types of blueberry jams.

Also from local farms and stores were hand crafted items such as caps and scarves, along with homemade organic soaps and farm raised wool.

Other than simply presenting what the local farm community has to offer, the Gardener's Corner from the University of Illinois was raising awareness and educating the community on various ways to begin, cultivate and harvest a garden of their own.

Entertainment was provided throughout the event by a live band and an acoustic guitarist. Activities were offered to the children that attended, including a petting zoo, pumpkin painting and a chance to check out fire engines and local farmer's tractors.

Along with the farmers market, JJC offered tours of the newly established, state of the art, LEED certified greenhouse, only the second certification obtained by a college in the country.

LEED is designated to greenhouses that display and maintain the upmost quality of performance and sustainability.

Tours are offered of the facility that includes an energy efficient, mechanically operable ventilated roof that reflects solar energy, as well as a computer controlled greenhouse system, a rainwater harvesting system and a multipurpose classroom.

Photo by Melissa Magnus

CeeCee Dudek admires a few of the animals at the petting zoo at the farmers market/fall festival.

Photo by Melissa Magnus

Diana Kestel stocks pretzels in pretzel warmer in the cafe area of new campus center

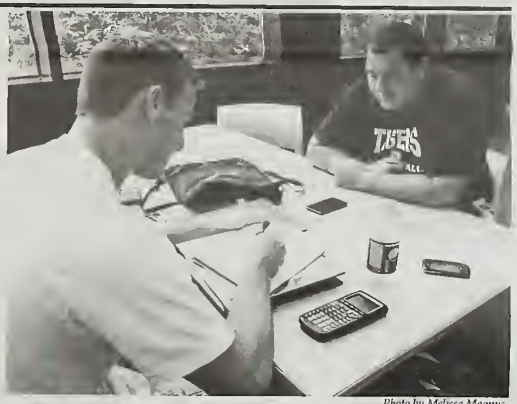

Photo by Melissa Magnus

Freshmen Alex Hank (left) and Mike Phillips (right) study in section of new campus center.

CAMPUS from page 1

The new Campus Center is just a part of JJC's construction master plan. Beginning in 2007, the five year plan has brought many new and exciting additions to the school already, and there is much more yet to come.

On August 30, the new automotive expansion held its grand opening and the natural sciences expansion is projected to be completed in the fall of 2012. Also, the new health professions building is predicted to be completed fall of 2013.

"I am very excited about a building, the campus center, that serves students and the fact that we were able to also build the parking lots," Rust said. "I can't wait to see the health professions building. I believe it will be fairly unique to this campus."

The official grand opening of the new Campus Center will be held on Thursday, September 15, on the first floor in Cafeteria of the center. Guests are welcome to tour the Campus Center from 2-5 p.m.

"We are so happy to have the student service area together to better serve all of our students," Rust said.

Photo by Melissa Magnus

A chair-level view of the lower section of the new cafeteria in the new campus center.

JJC culinary team takes home top honors

By Kat Boehle
Editor-in-Chief

When the Joliet Junior College Hot Plates Team coach Chef Kyle Richardson was interviewed in March about the team winning the state championship for the second year in a row, he immediately looked ahead to the national competition to be held in July.

"We went to nationals last year and won a silver medal by a point," Richardson said. "We want gold this year."

Richardson's goal was achieved on July 26 when JJC's hot plates team took home first place at the national ACF competition where they competed against three of the other best teams in the country. The win made JJC history as it marked the first time the school team won nationals.

"As soon as we finished last year, it was all we could talk about," Richardson said. "It was never 'if we win' it was always 'when we win.'"

Chair of the culinary department, Chef Micbael McGreal, said that although the team had competed in the past, the team had taken a break until Richardson joined JJC's staff and got the team up and running again in 2001.

"*The first year is when Kyle got* everything down," McGreal said. "After the first year, we started winning medals, and every year since, the score just kept getting higher."

Medals are awarded to teams at culinary championships based on a point system. A team can win a gold medal and still not win the championship if another team also is awarded gold with a higher school. Conversely, a team can win first place at a competition without earning a gold medal if no other school has earned a gold.

Richardson said that the team did not get its first gold until its fifth year competing.

McGreal said that roughly half the schools that competed this year were private, meaning that they cost 10 times as much as JJC's tuition for the same education.

Among the private schools was the nationally prestigious Culinary Institute of America, which McGreal said is considered the best culinary school in the country. This was the first year the Institute competed, Richardson said, but they managed to win the New York state competition and regionals and were one of the final four teams at nationals.

"We wanted to beat them," Richardson said. "Beating them was beating the best."

McGreal said that not only did JJC win first at the competition, but they won by the largest point margin ever. Richardson added *that since the state competition* in March, the team won nothing by high gold medals leading up to the national championship.

Winning high gold medals and beating the best required lots of practice though, Richardson said. This year's team started practicing individually over the summer of 2010 and then started practicing officially the second week of August.

Not only did the team practice when instructed to, but they also unofficially met to practice during their winter break that year.

"It's the first time that I've seen that kind of dedication," Richardson said.

Richardson said that the students had served as apprentices for the 2009-10 culinary team and were at the 2010 national competition to experience the loss by a fraction of a point and were as determined as the coaches to take home first.

McGreal said that it definitely paid off, because the team members were the top five students getting job offers and cards after the competition.

"Number one people (in the culinary world) were coming over to offer their cards and jobs," McGreal said. "It wasn't, 'Hey, if you want to come in for an interview,' no it was 'I want to give you this job.'"

Members of the team include David Basile of Peotone, Robert Belanski of Plainfield, Laura Korte of New Lenox, Michael Shannon of Plainfield, and Aaron Guajardo III of Joliet. Coaches included Richardson, Chef Tim Bucci and Assistant Chef Suzette Simpson.

Photo courtesy of American Culinary Federation

Laura Korte, foreground, prepares a dessert during the July competition in Dallas.

Guajardo was not only part of JJC's winning team, but he was also awarded 2011 ACF Student Chef of the Year.

Guajardo is currently working with Chef Alex Darvishi at the Houston Country Club in Texas, but Guajardo is not planning to stop there. He said that he wants to work with as many chefs as possible to become a "well-rounded chef" one day.

Although Guajardo said that winning the competition has opened a lot of doors, he does note that in the culinary world everyone starts at the bottom.

"It is very important to note that in the culinary industry one does not shoot to the top just because of a prestigious school or winning competitions," Guajardo said. "Everyone starts at the bottom. The goal is to start at the bottom in a nice place. The better you are, the faster you will move up, but the bottom will always be the beginning."

Guajardo was not the only one who brought home an individual award. McGreal was awarded the Presidential Gold Medal of Excellence for 2011, an award that is given out by the president of ACF to the chef of his choice.

McGreal said that there is no nomination process for the Presidential award, and it is something that is announced at the competition by the president of ACF. McGreal won for his outstanding culinary excellence and his support of student culinarians.

"I don't think we can beat this year we just had," Richardson said shaking his head. "It's surreal."

JJC's Competition Menu

~Appetizer~

Sauteed salmon with chive and whole grain mustard butter sauce; shrimp and salmon mosaic with slow-cooked fennel shellfish foam; semolina dumplings, leeks and asparagus; warm asparagus cream with a shaved fennel salad.

~Salad~

Wild n' Oaks Farm field greens with sherry vinaigrette; roasted petite tomatoes; goat cheese and grape with pear celery salad; artichoke with lemon aioli; whole wheat buttermilk cracker

~Entree~

Loin of Midwestern suckling pig with bratwurst and housemade bacon; braised pork croquette, pork broth with cured jowl and glazed onion; glazed wild mushrooms; saute of corn, carrot and kohlrabi; carrot puree, potato pave; broccolini

~Dessert~

Strawberry and sour cream mousse with lime gelee; pistachio cake; soft-centered chocolate fritter with raspberry cream; marinated fresh berries with lime spheres; pistachio ice cream and mixed berry sauce

Floral design team take first at nationals

BY ANTONIO PEREZ
Staff Writer

The Joliet Junior College horticulture department won big this past summer at the American Institute of Floral Designers annual national design competition held in San Francisco, Calif.

Two JJC students, Kathryn Wahl and Elizabeth Cangiano, won first place in the nation at the AIFD floral design competition. But this was not any ordinary win for JJC or AIFD. It was the first time the college had ever won honors at nationals and it was also the first time two students from the same school placed first in an AIFD national competition.

JJC competitors have placed in the AIFD competition before, but never had a JJC student won first in a category.

"It was about time," said Donna Theimer, chair of the horticulture and agricultural department.

Theimer said it was an awe dropping moment as the students received a standing ovation from the crowd. Theimer said she was crying tears of joy as soon as she heard they won.

"I was bawling my eyes out," she said.

Although they did win the competition, the road to get there was not glamorous. The students that went to the competition had to go through vigorous training and a lot of practice to get there.

The students who were going to compete had to train hard because there was a lot of competition from other schools who were all good at floral designing.

The competition consisted of 18 colleges and universities all across the United States and Canada.

Theimer said that they had to practice in the months of May and June to be ahead of the competition, and that it definitely showed. They had to endure four-hour practices to make sure they had every detail right because in the competition they cannot afford a mishap.

The competition was big because there were people from all over the world showing up to see the art, says Theimer. She said it's the "superbowl" of floral designing.

Although all the practices help with competing, Theimer said some students have a natural ability to perform extremely well.

"Those two students [Wahl and Cangiano] were the best students I have ever taught in my 12 years teaching at JJC," said Theimer. "I would have been disappointed if they didn't walk away with anything at all."

These students were not the average floral designers though. Each student that went to the competition on behalf of JJC loved doing floral designs, even in their leisure time. They do not even consider it work because they love it so much.

"Although it can be a hassle at times it's mostly fun," says Dianne Marie Chamberlin, who was a competitor for JJC at the competition.

Theimer says that there is a lot of work to perfect the design but it is fun and relaxing. She also said that her students were the most talented at the competition by far.

The competition itself was broken down into five categories: overall, buffet table design, napkin floral decor, bridal bouquet design and the sweetheart table design.

For each category they had an hour to complete their work with the exception of the napkin floral décor, which students were only given 45 minutes to complete.

Chamberlin said that the most difficult of all was the napkin floral decor because they had less time in that category than the rest. Although Chamberlin did not place in the competition, she won in a horticulture related competition in Michigan.

Chamberlin said that she did not show up to one of the practices so it definitely cost her.

In the end, Chamberlin said she was very happy for her friends for winning. All the hard work that they put in to getting to nationals and winning definitely showed in the end.

Photo courtesy of JJC website.

Floral design team from left: Kathrynn Wahl, Betsy Cangiano, Diane Chamberlain, and Kaitlyn Harlow took home top honors at national competition.

Comedian/impressionist

Brandon Styles revisits JJC

BY ASHLEY MURRAY
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Aug. 31, a comedian came back to Joliet Junior College.

Brandon Styles, a comedian and impressionist who tours all over the country, came back for another fun filled event full of laughs and excitement for students everywhere.

Styles is well known for his comedic impressions of famous celebrities and his unique magic tricks.

"Brandon Styles was very popular last year," said Pam Dilday, the director of student activities. "He had music from all genes and his dances were phenomenal."

He started off the show with a little singing and his impression of Justin Bieber, which made everyone laugh.

"This is my first time seeing him," said student Michael Hernandez. "He was very interactive with the audience, and I hope he comes back next semester."

However, some students were not as impressed as others.

"He needs some new material," said student Tim Kugelman. "He used the same old material he had last year, and so the show wasn't as funny."

"I am proud to be back at JJC," Styles said after the show. "I enjoy making people laugh, and seeing these students laugh made my job exciting."

Photo courtesy of JJC activities

Brandon Styles impersonates Michael Jackson.

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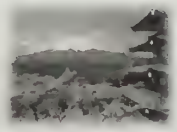

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Welcome week starts year off on right foot

Photos by Eric Monahan

Top: Evyn Watker and David Cambell perform live. Middle: Students enjoy the dueling pianists. Bottom: JJCPD Officer Chris Luttrell gets dunked.

Students gather for food, music, and fun

By Eric Monahan
Sports Editor

The Joliet Junior College Office of Student Activities held its biannual Welcome Week for students on the days of Wednesday, Aug. 23, and Thursday, Aug. 24.

The activities for these days included a dunk tank, free food, free caricatures, Lemon Shake Ups and shaved ice, Create a Bear, Dueling Pianos and music by David Campbell.

During the event, the OSA staff was fully focused on how the events were providing a positive atmosphere for the students.

However, this was not just planned overnight, according to Director of Student Activities Pam Dilday.

"Planning for welcome week started probably last March," says Dilday.

Many students probably saw Dilday either passing out food with the secretary of student activities, Laurie Bierman, or other staff members of OSA.

These members weren't just limited to passing out food or talking to participants, they were also in charge of making sure the atmosphere remained positive.

The positive atmosphere was definitely reinforced by the weather.

"Considering on Tuesday it literally monsoon while we were doing our open house," Dilday said. "This year the weather cooperated [for Welcome Week]. It was hot on Wednesday, but it was perfect."

As it would turn out, the temperature reached above the 80 degrees, making it a great day to be in the dunk tank.

The dunk tank would prove to be a huge success for raising money to go to a charity.

The most popular of the staff that was put in the dunk tank was Chief of Police Pete Comanda who has served five years in the dunk tank.

While in the dunk tank, Comanda raised almost $50 while in the tank as well as donating $50 of his own money, raising the total amount earned for charity to $176 respectively.

The money earned will later be donated to a charity to be chosen by JJC's student government, who was also involved with Welcome Week.

Some of the student government members Tim Kugleman and Michael Hernandez were in charge of running the dunk tank and Kugelman even made an appearance in it.

Another surprise dunk tank member was student Anthony Kantowski. These two students provided some relief for themselves as well as the faculty and staff.

The free food was provided by OSA from the school's culinary arts department. The food included corn dogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, veggie-burgers and hot dogs.

As it would turn out, OSA would have food to satisfy every participant at welcome week including the performers.

The free caricatures provided many students with a new look at life and themselves while Lemon Shake Ups and the shaved ice provided students with a way to cool off.

The Create a Bear table was a new attraction by OSA and turned out to be a success. The students could also enjoy music from the dueling pianos or the musical styling by David Campbell while participating in other various events at Welcome Week.

Welcome Week was successful as usual, attracting new students and attention to the area around the new campus center. The area was also chosen because it can be seen from all views from the walkways.

The walkways are now all interlined and made the Welcome Week very accessible to all students. The students who walked by the area were welcomed with warmth and the opportunity to get free food, a cold drink and all the opportunity to make new friends and get acquainted with the college and its staff.

Automotive expansion opens doors

By Eric Monahan
Sports Editor

The new Joliet Junior College automotive expansion officially opened its doors for business on Tuesday, Aug. 30, at its grand opening.

This expansion is a part of the master plan at JJC and was added on to the already existing C-building. Even though the space is already a part of the college, it is being fitted for new cost-energy saving appliances.

These appliances include LED lighting fixtures, high efficiency HVAC equipment, skylights to fully utilize natural sunlight and new bio-trench areas for controlled discharges into our sewer systems.

Because of these new additions, the building is now LEED certified, which means that the building is more environmental and energy efficient.

There are many other additional features to the expansion besides the energy efficiency of the building.

For example, inside the new area, students can find four more classrooms, new offices, more storage and utility space, and a commercial automotive house that holds 16 individual work stalls.

The new grand opening has the automotive department coordinator Jim Coleman in awe.

"[It's] absolutely awesome," said Coleman.

The expansion has vastly improved work quality and maximized the learning experience.

"It's fantastic, turned out better than expected," says Coleman. "No other school has anything like this." Coleman added referring to all the new features of the building and the program enhancement.

He said this new presence has increased "much more productivity and maximizes time" and provides more tools for the students in the stall. Even with that vast improvement and added tools, the project still came in under budget.

The budget of the expansion is good news to the college, seeing that the school is trying to save money on expenses.

The expenses on the program remain the same while servicing more vehicles, producing happier students and faculty and therefore a happier atmosphere here at JJC.

With the master plan progressing and students reaching new heights, JJC has taken a step in the right direction.

Photo by Michael [illegible]rien

Trustees and administrators cut the ribbon on Aug. 30 to celebrate the grand opening of JJC's new and improved automotive center. Pictured from left are Trustee Mike D'Connell, Vice President of Academic Affairs Valerie Roberson, Trustee Bob Wunderlich, Trustee Dan D'Connell, Trustee Susan Klen, Trustee Chairwoman Barb Delaney, and Interim-President Frank Zeller.

Oudenhoven leaves after 4 years at JJC

By Kat Boehle
Editor-in-Chief

On July 14, Joliet Junior College's Vice President of Student Development Betsy Oudenhoven resigned her position.

Having done her graduate school work at the University of Colorado, Oudenhoven said that she missed the state. She is now working at the Community College of Aurora outside of Denver, Colorado, where she is holding the same position as vice president of student development.

Although Oudenhoven said she is very much looking forward to going back to Colorado, she said she is definitely going to miss JJC.

"I'm really going to miss my staff," she said. "I love college students, I've loved them every place I've worked, but here I got really close to my staff cause they're good people and really hard working."

Oudenhoven came to JJC in December of 2007 after having previously worked as the dean of counseling at the College of Lake County. JJC was the first time Oudenhoven had held of vice president position.

Oudenhoven also said that her favorite part of her job at JJC was the students.

"That's the wonderful thing about working in student development is that it is all about the students," she said.

In her four years at JJC, Oudenhoven said that her greatest accomplishments included her contribution to building the staff as well as the campus center that opened shortly before she left.

"I think in the time that I was here, we were able to add some positions into student development and I was able to bring in," she said. "There are some really good people and I'm really proud of that."

Oudenhoven said that because of the staff in student development, she is not worried about leaving everything their hands.

Susan Paddock, JJC's Dean of Enrollment Management will be temporarily taking Oudenhoven's position as interim Vice President of Student Development.

"It's been a great four years," Oudenhoven said. "I really have valued my time at JJC, I just love the students that I've gotten to know. It's a great college and great set of people."

Nation recalls the painful events of 9/11

Many remember that tragic morning

By Kelsi Bertheaume
Editor-in-Chief

Last Sunday marked the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attack on America that directly led to two wars and a decade-long war against terror.

On Sept. 11, 2001, four planes were hijacked by al-Quadan terrorists who flew two planes into the World Trade Center twin towers in New York City and one into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Another plane, which was supposed to hit the capital, crashed into a Pennsylvania field after the passengers tried to take back control of the plane. The passengers managed to detour the plane from its original target, but all of the passengers on the flight were killed in the crash that took place in Shanksville, Pa.

On that day nearly 3,000 people died for our country and more than 4,000 soldiers have died since that day in the two wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, as America has fought its Global War on.

On Saturday, Sept. 10, Vice President Joe Biden and former presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush traveled to Shanksville to commemorate the 10th anniversary of that crash.

On Sunday, other events took place in Washington and New York as America remembered those who died in the attacks.

Joliet Junior College held a ceremony on Friday commemorating the anniversary of the attack. Part of the weeklong event to remember the victims of the attacks were the hand-sketched portraits of soldiers from Illinois that were on display on windows in the C-Building Concourse.

They were sketched by Artist Cameron Schilling of Mattoon, who drew the first portrait in August 2004 after Army SPC Charles Neeley, also of Mattoon, was killed in Iraq.

JJC has held a tribute for the fallen every year since the 9/11 attack. This year, the tribute to the fallen was held on Sept. 9 at 8:45 a.m. at the Alumni Bell Tower on the main campus. The public was invited to attend.

Personnel from several local fire and police departments participated in the ceremony. Following the ceremony, the fallen were honored by a rifle salute. A continental breakfast was then offered along with a showing of "In Memoriam: New York City 9/11/01" and a live program led by Deputy District Chief Paul Martin of the Chicago Fire Department

During the tribute there was a tolling of the Alumni Bell for the many firefighters that died and a rifle salute from the Color Guard to honor those who died that day.

After the showing of the film, Martin, who worked at Ground Zero after the attack, said his team left the next day for New York City after they were confident another attack would not hit Chicago.

Martin said that when his team arrived all they could see was smoke coming in from the west, because the World Trade Center buildings, including a third one that is often forgotten, had already collapsed.

Although the attack took place hundreds of miles away from Joliet, the initial attack was felt on the JJC campus as well as everywhere in America and around the world. Ten years ago, the attacks were broadcast live on the JJC television system.

The college responded to the trauma to the college community in several ways, according to JJC Police Chief Pete Comanda and Commander Melvin Cornelius.

"[The] police department at JJC worked closely with the counseling staff and provided counseling for our students and staff," Cornelius said. "Human Resources staff also played a role in grief counseling."

Many departments took part in helping the JJC community to understand the attacks and to deal with the grief it caused. Because no one fully understood what exactly what was going on at the time or who had done this, many people sought help and support.

Ten years later, the nation still remembers that day and the terror that it brought to New York, Washington, D.C., and Shanksville, Pa.

JJC's ceremony was only one of thousands of tributes held across the nation to pay tribute to those who died that day and in the two wars.

"It will always be back in our minds for the rest of our lives," Martin said.

JJC community remembers 'Gena'

By Kat Boehle
Editor-in-Chief

On the morning of Monday, July 15, Joliet Junior College's faculty and staff community remembered Dr. Gena Proulx who had died the previous Friday after her fight with fallopian tube cancer.

To open the ceremony was Board Chairwoman Barb DeLaney. She opened with several remarks of everything Proulx has done for JJC including her development of the college's master plan as well as her incredible support for the JJC chapter of the international honor society, Phi Theta Kappa.

Delaney then introduced JJC professor and faculty union president, Bob Marcink, who discussed Proulx's impact in her five years serving as JJC's president.

"At a time when other institutions were pulling back, we were moving forward, and it was under her leadership," Marcink said.

After Marcink, the president of Waubonsee Community College, Christine Sobek, was next to speak.

"I am but one voice of all the colleagues in the state of Illinois," Sobek said.

Sobek then spoke of how she and Proulx connected when they first met through the fact that they were both the first women presidents at their institutions as well as having three daughters.

"I was in awe of her courage, persistence, and strength that she could get better," Sobek said.

University of St. Francis President Michael Vinciguerra was next to speak about his personal and professional relationship with Proulx.

"I never saw her do these wonderful things for self glory," Vinciguerra said. "She was never one to use the word 'I.'"

After all the speakers spoke of Proulx, there was a moment of silence, and then the alumni bell tolled five times in honor of the five years that Proulx served as president.

To close the ceremony, there was a release of butterflies to symbolize life and freedom as well as to celebrate Proulx's life and accomplishments.

Photo by Kat Boehle

Christine Sobek, president of Waubonsee Community College, talks of her personal and professional relationship with Dr. Gena Proulx.

Dr. Gena Proulx addresses students at an event on the bridge in 2010. *Photo courtesy of JJC website*

Photo by Kat Boehle
Dr. Gena Proulx speaks at rededication of the alumni bell in October 2009.

In memory of Gena Proulx

By Kat Boehle
Editor-in-Chief

Joliet Junior College's president, Dr. Gena Proulx, passed away on Friday, Aug. 12, after a three-year battle with fallopian tube cancer. She was 66.

Proulx leaves behind a husband, three daughters, a mother and a brother.

Proulx came to JJC in July of 2006 after former JJC president J.D. Ross retired from the position. Proulx then became the seventh JJC president and was also the first female president to serve at JJC. With over 20 years of teaching experience in higher education, she was attracted to the college because of its historic roots as the first public community college in the nation.

Before JJC, Proulx had previously served six years as president at the Community College of Baltimore County.

During Proulx's term in 2008, she led the college's master plan effort that involved some of the biggest changes that the main campus has ever seen.

The seven projects included the newly opened Campus Center that Proulx looked forward to most, according to Joan Tierney, the senior executive assistant to the president.

"She was so proud of our new Campus Center and looked so forward to seeing the students settle in and enjoy the new facility," Tierney said. "Sadly, Dr. Proulx was only able to enjoy her new office for a little over a week before the dreaded cancer disease consumed her."

While at JJC, Proulx showed great support for JJC's chapter of the international honor society, Phi Theta Kappa. Before coming to JJC, her support for PTK was rewarded when she was given the Regional Coordinator's Award in 2004 and the Excellence Brick Recognition 2001 while she served at Community College of Baltimore County.

Proulx was also a strong supporter of the college's athletics and showed up to sporting events whenever she could.

"It's so clear that Gena's vision and leadership over the last five years have made Joliet Junior College a better place," said JJC Board of Trustees Chairwoman Barbara DeLaney at Proulx's memorial service on Monday, Aug. 15. "She was the college's greatest advocate, and for that we are grateful." (See story on Page 7.)

Another mark of her time at JJC was her passion for sustainability. She supported the creation of the first-ever college sustainability committee. In 2009, she also signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment. This is an effort from colleges and universities across the country to bring awareness of global climate change to students while decreasing greenhouse gas emissions from campuses.

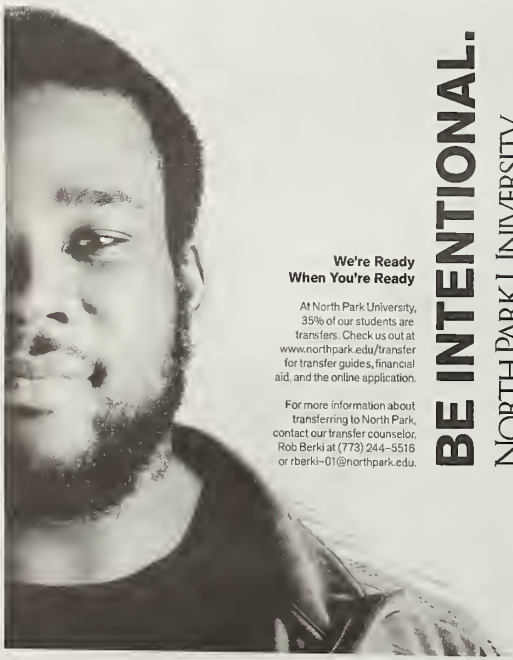
"She was a tireless leader and was small in stature, but was resolute in her charge to lead the college, even during her last days," Tierney said.

In addition to her work at the college, Proulx was also a big supporter of cancer research well before her own diagnosis. She participated in the local American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event.

After her diagnosis, Proulx made donations to the Loyola University Cancer Center where she received care. She also donated the wigs that she wore during her chemotherapy treatment.

In 2010 she dyed pieces of her hair teal in support of cancer research, the color of ovarian cancer, to support the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition.

Proulx spent the majority of her career at community colleges in New York and Maryland. Before coming to JJC she worked at Clinton Community College in Plattsburgh, N.Y., Genesee Community College in Batavia, N.Y., and Erie Community College in Buffalo N.Y.



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Miller's Movies: top five summer releases

By Ryan Miller
Production Manager

Another summer has passed and has left us with some very well done movies to look forward to when they release on DVD.

These are the movies that stood out to me the most this past summer and I found them to be the gems in the rough, considering that this summer was the scarcest for good viewing material.

Nonetheless, there were five films that made this summer memorable. Here they are listed in no particular order.

Rise of the Planet of the Apes- I wanted to name this movie first because of its extremely good focus on the story and the fact that it focused more on the ape characters than the human characters.

This movie not only told the story of how apes would come to rule the planet stupendously, but its visual aspect was enjoyable and very well done.

You would think that they just used computer animation for the apes, right? Wrong! The apes were created digitally but used motion capture technology. This means the director uses an actual actor (in this case, Andy Serkis) and the motion capture records only the movements of the actor, not his or her visual appearance. This animation data is mapped to a 3D model so that the model performs the same actions as the actor.

Besides its amazing graphics, this movie had really good acting to support it as well. James Franco (Will Rodman), John Lithgow (Charles Rodman). Tom Felton (Dodge Landon) and, of course, Andy Serkis (Caesar) all did an excellent job portraying their respected characters.

I also want to point out that there is a possibility that there will be a sequel. There are many scenes in the movie that could connect to possible sequels, such as the rocket ship Icarus (which was the name of the rocket used in the very first Planet of the Apes from 1968) that went to Mars and then mysteriously gets lost in space.

Director Rupert Wyatt said in an interview with filmschoolrejects.com that "I think we're ending with certain questions, which is quite exciting. To me, I can think of all sorts of sequels to this film, but this is just the beginning."

Super 8- I really regret not putting this movie in my to see list earlier in the year. This movie really proved me wrong on what I originally thought it would be like.

Ultimately, it was very well done. The reason I doubted this movie from the start was because of the starring of younger characters and placing them as the main characters throughout the movie.

There have only been a handful of movies that were able to pull that off such as The Goonies and the original Spy Kids. But surprisingly, this movie pulled it off probably the best.

It is not an innocent kid movie either. It pertains to a more teen/adult audience and does it well. It is the definition of a summer movie really. With a group of kids messing around in the summer, finding their way into a giant secret mystery that is more than even an adult can handle.

It includes various elements such as thriller, action and adventure, and sci-fi fantasy in which many people can connect to it.

The graphics in this film were just as good with very good quality CGI and some really well done shots of action sequences.

Overall, it's just an amazing movie.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2- Of course, being a fan of the books, I would have to mention this movie. However, putting that fact aside, it actually was an entertaining movie.

Now, did they include everything from the book? Of course not. But then again, what movie ever does?

Personally, this one is one of my favorites of the Harry Potter franchise. It has plenty of action that keeps the viewer entertained and it ultimately does a good job at ending the series.

I think that they could have added more to it so that it would seem to have more of a climatic ending, but overall, it gets the job done.

Bridesmaids- This movie was easily the funniest comedy of the summer by far. The title may make it look like a chick flick, but it is far from it.

Each character does an excellent job in their roles in this film, but the two actresses that really made it hilarious for me was Kristen Wiig (Annie) and Melissa McCarthy (Megan).

Those two really made the movie for me and hopefully their careers *really take off from this* film.

But also, even other characters such as Chris O'Dowd (Officer Nathan Rhodes) and Maya Rudolph (Lillian) supported the ongoing hilarity that this film possessed.

Even though the film has a basic storyline, it is really a must see for those who have not seen it yet.

Kung Fu Panda 2- Last, but not least, there is the animated feature that I thought was the best of the summer, which is Kung Fu Panda 2.

I thought that this movie did a perfect job of living up to the original. The comedy that it possessed was not only relatable to kids (of course) but to adults as well.

In this sequel, we learn more about Po's past and his back story, which I thought was done extremely well.

One of the things that I really liked about this film is that it just felt natural, because it just blended perfectly together with the first movie.

The storyline was interesting and kept a very good momentum going throughout the movie that kept the audience's attention, which is a very important aspect.

I highly recommend this movie for the young and young at heart.

'Contagion' infects theaters near you

By Courtney Binzen
Staff Writer

An infection colonizes in the body, then grows and multiplies. Many people could be infected by the infection or maybe only a few, but in the movie Contagion, infectious disease is just the start of an unbeatable pandemic.

Steven Soderbergh's film is labeled as an action thriller and every bit of that is true. In the first few minutes the movie goes from Kowloon, Hong Kong to Chicago, Ill., all within a blink of an eye. In the first scene, Beth Emhoff (Gwyneth Paltrow) is in an airport in Kowloon, Hong Kong, on her way back from a business trip. She has a layover in Chicago, so that she can see her old boyfriend, John Neal.

She then returns home to Minneapolis, Minn., to her husband Mitch (Matt Damon). She suddenly becomes ill and she has a seizure and dies.

Even the doctors were in shock, which did not have any explanation for her death. Prior to her death their son Clark (Griffin Kane) came down with a fever and dies from the same illness.

Mitch was at a loss for words at this point, but yet he managed to stay calm as he was quarantined from the public. Mitch was left with his daughter Jory Emhoff (Emma Jacoby-Heron).

The Center for Disease Control was now on the case because the number of cases and deaths were rising at an uncontrollable number. They sent Dr. Erin Mears (Kate Winslet), over to Minneapolis to figure out the origin of the disease.

Unfortunately, halfway through her research she came down with the disease as well. She eventually dies because the infection was so high in her body.

"It's figuring us out before we figure it out." Dr. Chcever (Laurence Fishburne) said because they were unable to find anything to prevent this infectious disease from spreading.

Finally Dr. Sussman (Elliot Gould) figured out how to grow the infection, so that they could test it and make a vaccine for it. They figured out the disease is spread through transmission, by touching of any kind.

People began to wear masks and literally mass chaos was all around the country and even the world. People raided the grocery stores, banks and even peoples homes.

The city of Chicago was shut down along with all access to Wisconsin. Even in Hong Kong, they held hostage an American women until someone brought the vaccine to them.

Nobody knew what to do, but panic and everyone did that very well. Once a vaccine was put together everyone who was anyone wanted their hands on it. No one could stop how out of control everyone became. When the CDC came out with a vaccine, they gave it to each person by their birthday. Once the vaccine was in your system, you were safe from the infection.

Contagion was not advertised as a "scary" movie, but it was not your average scary movie. When you watch something that can be very real and actually happen in real life, that can be scary in itself.

Real life traumas are not something we see everyday, but movies can truly show us what we should be thankful for. But the question still remains where did the infectious disease begin and who was the first to be infected by it?

Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

Matt Damon (pictured on left) along with Jude Law and Laurence Fishburne star in this Sci-Fi thriller.

'Persona non grata' art gallery displayed at JJC

Photo by Melissa Magnus

One of the various pieces of art displayed at the art gallery.

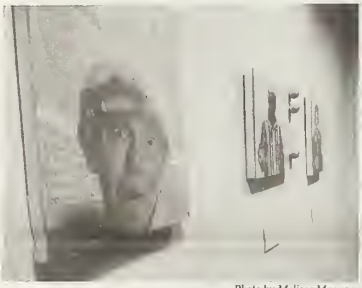

Photo by Melissa Magnus

This piece features Moe from The Three Stooges.

By Connor Quealy

Staff Writer

The Laura A. Sprague Art Gallery located on the second floor of J-building currently features a new exhibit by Dave Wilson, Associate Professor of Art at Black Hills State University, and James Loukas, Wilson's former student.

The mixed media exhibit features greats of the golden age of cinema cast in new lights. The works show stars from Lou Costello to John Wayne, each with its own unique take on the subject of celebrity.

The works look to show the subjects from the viewpoints of two different generations.

Wilson's works have been displayed at Joliet Junior College a number of times before.

Photo by Melissa Magnus

Many pieces of art, such as the one above, features many celebrities from the golden age of cinema.

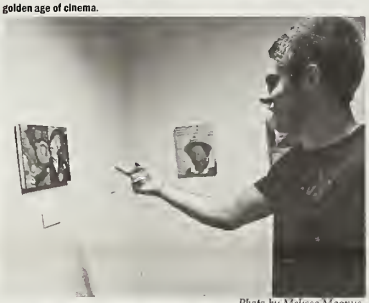

Photo by Melissa Magnus

Freshman Mike Phillips admires a smaller painting featured at the art gallery.

'The Hunger Games': a must read

Collin's novel grasps readers attention with adventure and suspense

Photo courtesy of suzannecollins.com

Suzanne Collins first book in 'The Hunger Games' trilogy.

By Carlos Williamson

Staff Writer

Seldom do fiction novels entertain our technology savvy society, but Suzanne Collins's novel "The Hunger Games" has readers of all ages pressing ignore on their iPhones.

"The Hunger Games" is a young-adult fiction novel that is the first book of a trilogy. The setting takes place in the U.S. years from now–Collins does not specify when in the future—Panem is the new name of the country.

The country is governed by a corrupt state called the Capitol. While the Capitol supports decadence and debaucheries, the impoverished districts that surround the Capitol are literally left to starve.

At the expense of the surrounding 12 districts, the Capitol hosts an annual event called the Hunger Games, in which two children are randomly selected from each district ranging from ages 12-18 and are forced to fight to the death for the Capitol's entertainment.

16-year-old Katniss Everdeen is the main character in the story. Katniss resides in District 12 along with her mother and 12-year-old sister, Primrose Everdeen.

During the ceremonial selection of the Hunger Games, Primrose's name is announced. Immediately, Katniss demands to participate in place of her sister and the change has been made and Katniss feels

Collins is not only a great author, she is a wonderful storyteller. Her books engage readers of all genres.

absolutely no remorse.

Inevitable bloodshed is what awaits her in the arena. Peeta Mellark, who is also the same age as Katniss, is selected to participate in the hunger games.

Although they attend the same school, they seldom speak to each other. After the ceremony, the tributes—the participants in the Hunger Games—are escorted to a building in the district where they will be able to say goodbye to family and friends before their journey to the Capitol.

Katniss says farewell to Primrose and her mother, as well as lifelong friend, Gale Hawethorne. Madge Undersee, who is the daughter of the mayor of District 12, gives Katniss a gold pin to wear in the arena as a token.

Collins is not only a great author, she is a wonderful storyteller. Her books engage readers of all genres.

Personally, Katniss's resilience is almost inspirational in the way that she defies the Capitol.

Once you read "The Hunger Games," you'll yearn for the second book in the series "Catching Fire." "Mocking Jay" is the third and final novel of the trilogy, in case you were wondering.

"The Hunger Games" was brilliantly written and enjoyable. It is definitely a must read.

Lil Wayne's new album disappoints

By Jordan Bishop
Staff Writer

A rapper's job is to spit rhymes with meaning and passion. After writing nine albums, one would think the artist would become a better and stronger writer and singer.

Known as the greatest rapper alive, Dwayne Michael Carter, Jr., aka Lil Wayne, has recently dropped his new album "Tha Carter IV" this past August. Millions of fans, including myself, waited for this album in anticipation that it would be one of Wayne's greatest creations.

Unquestionably, we were let down.

The albums number one hit single "How to Love" discusses the low self-esteem of a woman and Wayne sees her inner and outer beauty as something amazing and wishes she would love herself like he does.

The message the song gives is undoubtedly amazing but coming from Wayne it is hard to grasp. After being in jail for gun possession it is hard to believe that Wayne's love for himself and his career was enough to throw it all away for an entire year over a loaded .40-caliber semiautomatic gun.

After multiple platinum hits it seems that Wayne has run out of ways to talk about how high or how rich he is. So now he leaves it to other rappers to do so.

The song "Outro" features four other rappers including Bun B, Nas, Shyne, and Busta Rhymes. The song demolishes the rest of the album and is respectably one of the two greatest songs on this ghastly album.

It's obvious that Wayne never even dropped a rhyme in this song because the other artists oversbadow him as "the greatest rapper alive."

In the only other decent song "Interlude" Wayne is once again MIA. The song features Tech N9ne and Andre 3000 as the dominating artists on the entire album.

As a fan of Wayne for quite some time now I have to admit, it seems that Wayne would rather be doing the behind the scene work rather than be the star of his own collaboration.

The album should not be titled after only Wayne but after the other several rappers that made the album slightly enjoyable.

This album was nothing other than a failure to Wayne's career and will never be forgotten. Or should I say always remembered as one of Wayne's biggest malfunctions to his career.

The songs on this album may have good beats or a good rhythm to them, but I can easily say that is because Wayne is either missing from the entire song or because the song is brainless, dim and obtuse when it comes to the lyrics.

I have listened to multiple songs solely on how they sound rather than enjoying the lyrics and the songs on this album are a few of them.

Overall, this album for me was an unpleasant buy. I would not recommend it to even the biggest Lil Wayne fan because even I know they would be disappointed in how horrific this album turned out to be.

Save your money because it is not worth the pain that Wayne will bring to your ears.

Photo Courtesy of Lil Wayne

Lil Wayne releases his ninth album "Tha Carter IV".

Jay-Z and Kanye's new CD okay but not adventurous

By Jonas Lucas
Staff Writer

"Watch the Throne" is a collaborative album between two of the most prominent MC's in the music industry today, Jay-Z and Kanye West.

The intrigue that accompanied the release stems from the rappers intentions to share the spotlight, which is no easy task given both men's larger than life personas and vastly divergent rap styles.

The album is ambitious, though not quite the masterpiece it was hyped up to be in the year prior to its release.

"Watch the Throne" is another showcase of West's stellar production, with plenty of retro samples, including odes to James Brown and Otis smith, resulting in soulful beats reminiscent of tracks the pair worked on for Jay-Z's classic 2001 release, "The Blueprint."

However, as a result of the burden of balancing the respective styles of the two MC's, West's production is noticeably dialed back and less adventurous than his solo work.

Vocally, West and Jay-Z manage to coexist, if not complement one another. The album relies on a plethora of guest stars to deliver hooks, and is brimming with potential hits.

From the release of the lead single "H.A.M.," it was clear that "Watch the Throne" is intended to be a mainstream blockbuster, and that is evident in both Kanye's aforementioned reserved approach to production, and in the subject matter of the album.

As the name implies, "Watch the Throne" is often thematically centered on self-aggrandizement. West and Jay-Z continually and unabashedly flaunt their wealth and prosperity, with nods to their humble beginnings and past destitution.

However, there are several offerings, including the Wu Tang infused "New Day" that showcase an introspective side to the rappers, demonstrating a refreshing diversity present in both MC's when they are willing to stray from the script.

For such an ambitious album, there are few surprises on "Watch the Throne." What you see is what you get. That is not necessarily a bad thing, however, as there are glimpses of the brilliance that has defined both men's careers, albeit in a sometimes off-putting way.

By all accounts, the album succeeds in serving as an unapologetic memoire of two of hip hop's elder statesmen. For all its apparent shortcomings, "Watch the Throne" is still an above average release where individual brilliance overcomes an at times awkward dynamic and apparent lack of substance.

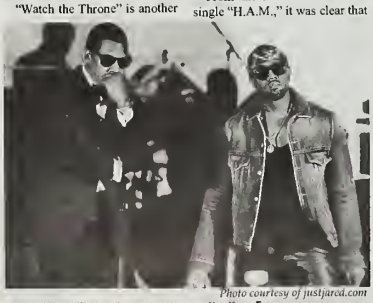

Photo courtesy of justjared.com

Jay-Z and Kanye West perform in Las Vegas on New Years Eve.

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Photo courtesy of Red Hot Chili Peppers

Red Hot Chili Peppers come out with their tenth album "I'm With You."

'Chili Peppers' still 'red hot'

BY GINA CAPONIGRO
Staff Writer

The Red Hot Chili Peppers released their 10th studio album, "I'm With You," on Aug. 29, their first album since their 2006 release "Stadium Arcadium."

Following the release of Stadium Arcadium, the band took an extended break and regrouped in October 2009. They emerged with smoother vocals, crisper bass lines and a new lead guitarist, Josh Klinghoffer, having replaced their former guitarist, John Frusciante.

I had high hopes for an epic guitar solo, but it sadly did not come. However, Klinghoffer had flashes of brilliance in "Goodbye Hooray," "Did I Let You Know" and "Look Around."

Although I had higher expectations for Klinghoffer, I believe he has potential and I can't wait to see what else he has up his sleeve.

Rounding out the band is Anthony Kiedis as lead vocalist, Michael Balzary (known to fans as Flea) on bass and Chad Smith on drums.

Being a longtime fan of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, I feel these original members of the band (Kiedis, Flea, and Smith) really stepped up their game through the album's progression.

I appreciated the easy-going nature of Anthony's vocals in "Happiness Loves Company," "Ethiopia" and "The Adventures of Rain Dance Maggie," making me believe that I too can sing along with him.

The lyrics of "Ethiopia" in particular struck a chord with me. The verse "Live to love another day, even when you feel unsure" I feel delivers a message that raises confidence in those wary to try their hand at love.

Chad's use of various drumming techniques in "The Adventures of Rain Dance Maggie," "Did I Let You Know" and "Monarchy of Roses" was an unexpected treat that showed his range as a drummer.

But I was most impressed with Flea's work in this album. He made each song more enjoyable to listen to with quirky riffs that induced head bobbing, especially his wicked solo in "Goodbye Hooray" and the opening of "Factory of Faith."

Some of my favorite songs off the new album were "Monarchy of Roses," "Dance, Dance, Dance," "Factory of Faith," "Ethiopia" and "The Adventures of Rain Dance Maggie," the featured single of the album.

Having listened to the album repeatedly for days on end, I began to recognize each song as soon as it started. This did not happen, however for "Annie Wants a Baby." I found this song in particular to be easily forgettable and unappealing. It did, on the other band, have a similar opening to "This Is the Place" from their "By The Way" album.

Overall, I found "I'm With You" to be a real joy. The casual switch from faster to slower tempo tunes was refreshing and a good lee-way to introduce their new guitarist.

I had been waiting for months to buy this album and I was ecstatic when I got it. I couldn't download it onto my iPod fast enough.

I highly recommend it to anyone who is a fan of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, a fan of rock/alternative music, or if you're just looking for something new to listen to. I would give "I'm With You" a rating of 4 out of 5 stars.

Grossman leaves reader wanting more

BY ANTONIO PEREZ
Staff Writer

Lev Grossman takes us back to the land of Fillory in his new novel "The Magician King." The novel is a sequel to his New York Times bestseller, "The Magicians," which came out two years ago in August.

He built up the suspense for his fans by waiting two years to publish "The Magician King" and fans were left in anticipation for the arrival of his new novel.

Some even had to prepare for the new novel by rereading "The Magicians" to be in watch for whatever Lev Grossman might throw at them, such as a twist to the story.

In the story, Quentin and his friends are now the kings and queens of Fillory, but they seem to have grown weary of their perfect lives so they decide to go on a little mission. Quentin and Julia are off in their journey and have fled the dull world of their lives to only find that they will face horrifying challenges.

Their little quest rapidly turned into a huge quest when they get into a two-part mess of trouble. Along their path they find old and new friends to help them in the midst of their troubles. Quentin and Julia were made for adventures and they got one with a long and dark road ahead of them.

With this novel, you will be left in suspense and bewildered at what is coming next. He will have you on the tip of your toes trying to guess what's coming next. It's hard to predict what will happen next when you are reading "The Magician King" but you will like what happens next.

Grossman knows how to tell epic stories, just like C.S. Lewis, but he adds a darker spin to them.

Readers will be easily snared into Quentin Coldwater's adventures and will be caught adrift in his novel.

For fantasy lovers or for anybody wanting to pick up a good book, this is the book to get. Groucho Marx says that "Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read."

You will start to call this book your best friend once you start reading it. After reading "The Magician's King," Fillory will be an adventure land you will not want to come out of.

Photo courtesy of LevGrossman.com

"The Magician King," sequel to Lev Grossman's 2009 release "The Magicians," was released on Aug. 9, 2011.

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Volleyball

Lady Wolves start their season strong

Current Record: 8-5

BY HALEY HUBERT
Copy Editor

It is the start of a new season for the Lady Wolves. Despite a rough start in which the Wolves fell in the Kankakee Tournament against Kankakee Community College, they managed to pull themselves together for a win against Kaskaskia College just later that day.

The following day at Kankakee's Tournament, they faced three more opponents and their final record was 2-3.

The Wolves faced another loss against Harper College on Tuesday, Aug. 30, but that was the end of the hardships for the girls.

They managed to come back from their .beginning-of-the-season deficit and won the following four games. Two of those wins were against conference teams Harper College and Madison College.

To add to the list of accomplishments the team is already receiving this season, they took home first place at their last tournament at Lincoln Land Community College.

On the tournament game day, the Lady Wolves emerged with a 3-1 overall record, defeating St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley, but falling to Kaskaskia College.

In their latest game on Tuesday, Sept. 6, the Wolves faced another conference opponent, College of DuPage. Taking them in all three matches, the team came out with a 25-11, 25-6, and 25-11 win. The Wolves' resulting season record was 8-5.

Future opponents of the Lady Wolves include Rock Valley College, who proved to be a worthy opponent last season.

They face Rock Valley College on Tuesday, Sept. 13, at 6 p.m. at the JJC campus.

Photo by Kat Boehle

Libero Holly Panock prepares to bump the ball against College of Dupage at Sept. 6 home game.

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Men's soccer

Wolves can't seem to get untracked

BY BEE SPIVEY
Staff Writer

On Aug. 26, the men's soccer team faced Kankakee Community College and ended up losing the game 2-1, but it still had its shining stars.

The only goal was scored by the wolves was by Manuel Mircles who was assisted by Ivan Rodriguez. Goalkeeper Richard Wyskiel managed to save three additional attempts preventing any further scoring from Kankakee.

On Aug. 31 the Wolves squared off against DuPage. However, the Wolves were not in their best competitive nature and lost the game 0-6 leaving the Wolves with a 0-2 record.

While the offense was blanked, Wyskiel managed to earn one additional save on goal.

On Sept. 2, the Wolves earned their first win when they defeated Waubonsee Community College by a score of 3-1.

Oved Rodriguez scored the first goal on an assist by Ivan Rodriguez. The next two goals were scored by Luis Lizeano and were unassisted.

Even with the new found offense, the defense still performed well with Wyskiel making two saves during the game.

JJC traveled to N4C conference opponent Triton College on Wednesday, Sept. 7, with a 1-2 overall record.

The Wolves opened up the conference play and allowed two goals. Those two goals however, would prove to be enough to defeat the Wolves.

The Wolves offense seemed to become stagnant again by only getting one goal that was scored by Alvaro Zavala with an assist from Benjamin Jacob.

Although the Wolves lost 2-1, the score could have been much worse without Wyskiel, who managed to add three more saves.

So far, this season has been challenging for the team with a 1-3 record overall as well as a 0-2 N4C conference record.

Football

Wolves off to a 1-1 start

By Carlos Williamson

Staff Writer

(JJC Wolves fell to Iowa Western CC, 33-0, in the team's first Midwestern Football Conference game of the year on Saturday Sept. 10 in Iowa. The following story was written prior to that game.)

Starting the season strong with a win, the Joliet Junior College football team looks forward to building its momentum.

On Saturday, Aug. 27, the Wolves defeated Arkansas Baptist College by a score of 24-16. The offensive attack was led by quarterback Christopher Rokita and running back Robert Beaver.

Rokita went 13 for 30, 143 yards and 1 passing touchdown. The remaining offense was by a plethora of running backs for the wolves, while the leading rusher was Beaver with 12 carries for 78 yards.

However, it was Dametrius Thomas who sparked two additional touchdowns on three carries for 31 yards.

The receiving attack consisted of John Garret, Vanalari Hope, Jawyne Thomas, and LaCory Valentine. However, Thomas was the only receiver who caught a touchdown pass. Not only was the offense performing but the Wolves special team was also working.

In particular, the kicker Kyle Battle who kicked a 24 yard field goal and went three for three on extra points.

The Wolves are left to taste the sweet satisfaction of victory until September 10 against Iowa Western CC.

Even though the Wolves had bye week on Saturday, Sept. 3, Head Coach Jeremy Richardson plans to utilize spare time for practice.

"Iowa Western has a great coaching staff," said Richardson. "There isn't one specific player to worry about. They're just a good football team."

While the Wolves prepare for their upcoming game, Richardson believes his football team has enough talent to handle the task at hand.

"Quarterback Christopher Rokita fits well with the program," said Richardson. "He has a strong arm, quick release and deceptive speed."

Complementing Rokita's throwing ability is wide receiver Jawyne Thomas.

"Even though Jawyne is 5 foot 9, he plays like he's 6 foot 2," said Richardson. "Jawyne is a shifty receiver who has great speed and explosiveness."

Another target for Rokita is wide receiver Valanari Hope who stands 6 feet 3 inches.

"Hope brings physical presence to the football field with his size and strength," said Richardson.

Leading the Wolves' defense this season is their defensive line.

"The anchor of our defense is our defensive line Austin Copley, Curtis Brown, Aaron Davis and Jeffrey Brown are a huge part of the defenses success," said Richardson.

With his current roster, Richardson believes his football team has a chance to compete for a conference title, eam a bowl berth and win their bowl game.

Other than success on the field, Richardson and defensive coordinator Jason DeWolf agree that support from fans can further motivate the Wolves.

"If possible, I would like it if students could come and show support for every home game," said Richardson.

Only time will tell if the coaches wishes of increased student presence will be answered, but one certainty is that the Wolves will play a game against Iowa Western CC regardless. The Iowa Western Reivers are currently 2-0 heading into the game.

The Wolves currently hold a 1-1 record overall and are 0-1 in the Midwestern Football Conference.

Upcoming Home Games

Women's Soccer	Men's Soccer	Football	Volleyball
Sept. 16, 4 p.m. -Morton College-	Sept. 14, 4 p.m. -Harper College-	Sept. 17, 1 p.m. -North Dakota-	Sept. 17, 6 p.m. -Millwaukee Tech-
Sept. 21, 4 p.m. -Millwaukee Tech-	Sept. 28, 4 p.m. -Madison College-	Oct. 2, 12 p.m. -Iowa Central-	Sept. 27, 6 p.m. -Harper College-

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SPORTS

Sophomore forward Claudia Villanueva combats against College of Lake County defender.

Photo by Kat Boehle

After strong start, Lady Wolves stumble a bit

By Eric Monahan

Sports Editor

The Joliet Junior College women's soccer team has kicked off the season with a record of 1-2-0 and is 0-1 in the N4C. The Wolves got the win against South Suburban College 2-1 on Aug. 29 while the two losses came against conference opponent College of DuPage, 3-1 on Aug. 31 and 6-0 to College of Lake County on Sept. 9.

The offense for the Wolves against South Suburban came from sophomore Caytin Lewin who scored both goals with assistance from her teammates. One teammate who received an assist for her efforts was Eloisa Mireles. However, the offense was not the only thing performing at a high level on Aug. 29.

Performing at an even higher level was Goalkeeper Jennifer Dorre, who did allow one goal but managed to save four different attempts from South Suburban.

Dorre's effort along with her teammates allowed the Wolves to secure a winning start to the season with a 1-0 record and remain at 0-0 in conference play, and would next face off against the College of DuPage.

College of DuPage came in to the game with a record of 0-1 with its loss coming to Elgin Community College. However, the Chapparals of Dupage would turn their fortunes around against the Wolves.

The offense for the Wolves was limited to only one goal from Caitlin Beshoar and was assisted by Tiffany P'Pool. The offense for the Wolves just could not muster up enough support for Dorre who again tallied four saves but allowed three goals. The record for the Wolves was then 1-1 and 0-1 in conference play.

The Wolves played again on Sept. 9 against College of Lake County. The game was a difficult one for the Wolves as they lost 6-0. The bright spot was that the game was not in conference play and it was against a Division 1 opponent.

While there were not too many bright spots in the offense and defense the Wolves did manage to attack to occasion but intimately not score.

Even though the offense was not scoring it did not stop the defense from playing. There were several key stops from Goalkeeper Lauren Fowler who saved at 13 goal shots.

However, even Fowler's performance did not help. The Wolves were short staffed on this day, and it reflected during substations.

"One girl had a red card and couldn't play," said Head Coach Gino Di Nardo. "We have to try different girls at goalkeeper which is a key position."

The original goalkeeper is no longer a part of the team and finding a replacement will be a challenge.

The Wolves were scheduled to play away matches at Daley College on Sept. 12 and Harper College on Sept. 14.

Male Athlete of the Issue

By Eric Monahan

Luis Lizcano, a midfielder on the men's soccer team, earned the athlete of the issue for his performance against Waubonsee Community College. Lizcano provided an offense force against WCC on Sept. 2 and scored two individual goals helping the Wolves seal their win 3-1. Despite the Wolves' slow start to this season, the Wolves have improved its record to 1-3 overall and 0-2 in N4C conference play.

Luis Lizcano

Female Athlete of the Issue

By Eric Monahan

Alexis Nelson, an outside hitter of the volleyball team, earned this issue's female athlete because she has averaged 15 digs and 10 kills per match. With Nelson's help, the Volleyball team has gotten off to a terrific start. The early season record for the Lady Wolves is 8-5 overall with a 2-1 record in the N4C conference, which has led to national recognition. With Nelson's help, the Lady Wolves are nationally ranked at 9 in this week's NJCAA Division III poll.

Alexis Nelson

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2011 VOLUME 84 ISSUE 3

School spirit shows during Homecoming week

BY GINA CAPONIGRO
Staff Writer

From Oct. 10 to Oct. 15, students and faculty geared up for the annual Joliet Junior College homecoming festivities. The week of Oct. 10 was theme days with the homecoming football game and dance on Saturday, Oct. 15.

With the theme days, Monday, Oct. 10, was crazy hat day; Tuesday, Oct. 11, was alumni day, were students and faculty wore apparel from their high school or college days; Wednesday, Oct. 12, was jersey day, which represented such sports as football, hockey and soccer; Thursday, Oct. 13 was tie-dye day and Friday, Oct. 14, was purple and white day, showing off the college's colors.

Students had the chance to vote on these theme days via the college's learning site, iCampus, by participating in a survey.

"Nearly 32 percent of the student population was in favor of alumni day," said Student Activities Director Pam Dilday.

For the homecoming football game on Oct. 15, the kickoff was at 1 p.m. at Joliet Memorial Stadium. Students, staff and family showed up and cheered on the Wolves with spirit although they fell to Grand Rapids with a score of 28-7.

The half-time show included routines done by both the JJC cheerleaders and the JJC dance team.

Tickets for the homecoming dance went on sale during the week of Oct 10-14 for $9 in advance or $12 at the door. The dance was organized by the Black Student Union and its director Sherri Morrow.

The Las Vegas themed dance had guests clad in black and white attire, giving it a feeling of being in Vegas, even if guests were not 21-years-old yet.

Though the thought of these homecoming festivities sounded intriguing to some students, most students were unaware that such events were taking place.

"What we needed to do was to start promoting it earlier," remarked Dilday, "to generate more school spirit."

Photo by Kat Boehle

JJC cheerleaders perform during half-time at the Homecoming game on Saturday, Oct. 15.

Students take advantage of college fair

BY ANTONIO PEREZ
Staff Writer

On the evening of Oct. 11, ambassadors from over 100 colleges stretched from F-building to A-building and looped around the cafeteria to continue to go down to the end of T-building. The main campus that night was filled with students from JJC and the region's high schools.

"I don't know what's going on, it's so busy," said John Strange, an assistant for the college fair.

People were even having trouble walking when they were trying to reach college representatives.

"It's the busiest one I've been to at Joliet Junior College," said the representative for Seton Hall University.

Students and parents were asking question after question as the representative of the school was forming an answer and being informative also.

"I'm happy because I don't have to work in there," said Brian Douglas, a worker that was helping attendees of the event park their cars.

If you were not at the college fair you might consider yourself lucky because you didn't have to deal with the commotion; but you missed a good opportunity to talk about the college with the representative at hand.

"It was a collegiate experience

See FAIR on page 3

JJC celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

BY KAT BOEHLE
Editor-in-Chief

From Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, Joliet Junior College held an abundance of festivities to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.

The celebration starts on Sept. 15 because it is the anniversary of the independence of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico's Independence Day is on Sept. 16 and Chile's day of independence is on Sept. 18.

Columbus Day, or Dia de la Rosa, is also on Oct. 12, summing up a month-long period, thus explaining why the celebration is spread out over two months.

To start out the month of events, the student club Latinos Unidos marched in the Mexican Independence Day parade in downtown Joliet on Sept. 10. The Office of Multicultural Student Affairs also had a float.

To kick off the events at JJC, OMSA had student Alex Castillo announce to the board of trustees that Hispanic Heritage Month was happening at the Sept. 13 board meeting.

On Sept. 16, the first event to be held at JJC was an event to inform JJC students about the history of Mexican Independence Day. This event means a lot to Latinos Unidos, according to Michelle Roman, the director of OMSA.

She says this is because people believe it is Cinco de Mayo that is the day Mexican independence, when it was really on Sept. 16 that Mexico declared itself as independent.

"The truth is diluted," Roman

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EDITORIAL

Make this a fun but safe Halloween for everyone

Oct. 17-21 was National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week, and to show support the Office of Student Activities displayed stories of people who lost their lives to drinking and driving.

The stories came from children, parents and various family members whose lives were altered in one night.

As part of the Alcohol Awareness Week observance, Natural Sciences Assistant Professor Eva Murdoch also presented a Brown Bag program on the dangers of alcohol use following traumatic injuries.

The larger message is simple—underage drinking and abuse of alcohol by anyone is a dangerous thing and should be taken seriously.

With Halloween approaching, we would like to offer one specific piece of advice to everyone who is considering celebrating the holiday with alcohol—if you plan to drink this Halloween weekend, please don't drive. Have a designated driver or stay in one place —but do not drive.

Not only do you put yourself in danger when you drink and drive, but you also put your passengers in danger, as well as anyone who happens to be on the road that night. But drinking and driving around Halloween also adds a particularly troubling element to the "celebration"—children are more likely to be on the streets, particularly in towns that celebrate the holiday on the weekend.

There are a couple other things to remember if you choose to "party" this weekend. First off, drink in moderation. Drinking in excess can result in a variety of events that could put a major damper on your night.

Next, stay with your group of friends. Being intoxicated makes you vulnerable to theft and physical harm, and there is safety in numbers. You are less likely to be a victim of a crime if you are in a group. You are less likely to be targeted by a predator.

Alcohol poisoning can also result, and while tales of how sick you were the night before are often told as a badge of honor, over-drinking can be a serious thing.

If you are lucky, you will just regurgitate the previous night's alcohol. If you are not, you could end up in an emergency room or worse.

So, let's make every week Alcohol Awareness Week. Be smart and be safe, and get home to your families and friends safely.

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OPINION

The importance of volunteering

BY COURTNEY BINZEN
Staff Writer

On Oct. 12, the Student Activities and Holistic Wellness put on the annual Joliet Junior College Volunteer Fair. The fair is for students who are interested in volunteering in the community.

Organizations such as Morning Star Mission, Will County Habitat for Humanity and Tbe Girl Scouts attended the fair along with many other organizations. The mission of the Office of Student Activities is to have an extracurricular program designed to be diverse for the student body and to have an educational experience outside of the classroom.

Volunteering is a vital part of the community because it is important to help others who are in need. Volunteering is also good to put onto college applications if you are planning on transferring to another college.

Many colleges love to see their future students involved in the community. Along with volunteering the Office of Student Activities is involved with student clubs and the student government.

Some of the clubs at JJC are honorary societies, multicultural organizations and political groups. Getting involved in college now will help you get a job in your chosen career in the future.

You can find out more about volunteering opportunities by contacting your town's City Hall or you can contact Pam Dilday at JJC. Her office is located in D-1010.

Have respect for those who serve you

BY RYAN MILLER
Production Manager

Have you ever worked at a fast food or sit-down restaurant, a clothing retail store, a movie theater, or even a supermarket such as Wal-Mart or Jewel? Then you know exactly where I'm coming from when I say that customers can be jerks.

Many of the students here at JJC probably hold one of these various jobs in order to pay for their car, tuition or even to help out with the bills at home.

Part-time jobs are what students look for when attending college so that they can get introduced to the consumer based world while still obtaining an education. But, as a lot of us know, holding these part-time jobs, mainly the ones dealing with people face to face, can create some of the most stress on a young person's life.

Being a teenager myself at 19-years-old, I cannot begin to tell you the types of horror stories that I have personally been through and even what I have heard about dealing with demon customers whose sole mission is to make our lives miserable in the work place.

Even as a customer I see other customers giving employees a hard time when they are not even responsible for what the customer is yelling at them for.

For example, this one time I was eating at a Chili's restaurant with a few of my friends, we had just been seated next to tbis other booth that had four people who were giving their waitress an extremely hard time.

The waitress had taken their order and maybe about 20 minutes later came back out with their food – that's when fireworks started to go off.

One of the women began complaining about how long it took to get their order. Now, just as we had been sitting down, the waitress was just starting to take their order, so it really had not been that long at all – it only seemed to take maybe 20 minutes to get their food, which really didn't seem that long to me at all, especially considering that the place was moderately busy. Nonetbeless, the woman complained about how long it took to get their food.

The waitress apologized very politely and explained that it was dinner time so business was picking up. But for some reason, the woman seemed to take offense to this

See RESPECT on page 3

Letter Policy

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We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at F-1009.

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FAIR from page 1

and very helpful," said JJC student Brandon Urquidi.

There were students who would walk up to a desk and only take information like brochures while there were other students who would get into a deep conversation with the representatives about the college.

There were other people who were glad to see that JJC cares about the students at large and to see that JJC provides opportunities like the college fair to promote higher education.

"It's good to see high school students trying to continue their education especially in this time of crisis," said Zak Cottrell, last year's student trustee. "I'm really happy to see that JJC provides these type of opportunities so students can know more about the colleges that are out there."

Other spectators were not as fond of the college fair.

"I think it's great that JJC runs events like this so people can find a college, but right now I am not interested in it because I already know my future plans," said Timothy Quigley, a current JJC student.

The college fair appealed to those who did not know where they were headed to. It was an excellent resource for students to get a closer look at the many colleges that were at the fair.

Photo courtesy of JJC Media

Students crowd the concourse at the College Fair.

RESPECT from page 2

and started going on about how that it is their problem and not hers and at how poorly things were being handled. But then things got really outrageous.

As this poor waitress was just standing there being verbally abused by this maniac, her friend chimes in and says that her bun is not toasted enough and wants a whole new sandwich.

Seriously? You take three bites of your sandwich and you decide that the bun is not toasted enough? At this point one of the men asks to speak to a manger.

The manager comes over and the whole table begins their rant about the poor service they were being given. The manager apologizes and says that their meal is complimentary and asks if they would be interested in a free desert later. The manager begins to walk away when I ask for his attention.

He comes over (probably thinking that I've got something to add too) to our table and that's when I lay it on the table next to us. I explain to the manager that the people had been harassing that poor waitress the entire night and that no one working that night should be held responsible for the customers' poor attitudes.

I said it loud enough so the other table could hear me, which apparently they did and took such offense to it that they just got up and left the restaurant.

It is not very often another customer will defend the employee that is being chewed out by someone else, but I'm not just another customer. I know what it's like to be chewed out for no reason whatsoever and then the unruly customer obtains their free compensation.

The things that employees have to put up with is just plain wrong. What some people are willing to do or say just so they can get a free meal or discounted item is outrageous and almost animal-like in some cases that can get a completely innocent employee fired from their job.

So the next time you go out and see a movie, eat out at a restaurant, or go shopping for a pair of shoes, be kind to that employee and thank them for their services, because that thank you and kindness can make that whole person's shift worthwhile.

Photo courtesy of JJC Media

A student talks to a representative from Illinois College to find out more about what that college has to offer.

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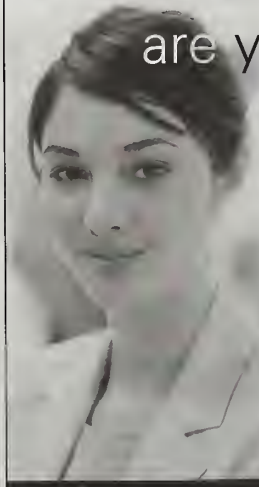

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HERITAGE from page 1

said. "That is why it is so important to have these events – people are so misinformed."

Roman also said that even some first and second generation Mexican-Americans will believe that Cinco de Mayo is Mexican Independence Day.

"To know who you are, you need to know where you come from," Roman said.

The festivities also included some Latino cinema including Which Way Home that was shown on the bridge on Sept. 29 and I Am the Queen on Oct. 7.

Roman said that these movies were shown to help break some of the stereotypes that surround the Hispanic community including immigration.

OMSA and Latinos Unidos collaborated with the Gay, Lesbian, Or Whatever club to bring the directors of I Am the Queen for a Q and A after the movie.

Although JJC has been celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month for many years now, something new that was done this year was to reach out to the community at the City Center campus at JJC.

According to Roman, many of the students who attend City Center are of the Hispanic community.

"These students tend to get neglected," Roman said.

So for the first time, JJC held its annual mariachi band concert at City Center campus on Tuesday, Oct. 4. Roman said that although the attendance was not that high, they still plan on doing the same thing next year.

Through all of these events, Roman said the goal is not only to inform people on Hispanic culture as a whole, but to inform students on the different cultures within the Hispanic community.

"We might have a common language, but the cultures or so different," Roman said. "Through these kinds of activities, students become more globally aware of the richness of each culture."

The celebrations of different cultures will not end with the Hispanic community though, Roman said. In February, there will be events for African-American History Month and in April, there will also be events held for Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month.

Stories warn students of drunk driving

BY CHALISSE BREEDEN
Staff Writer

Alcohol Awareness Week began on Monday, Oct. 17, 2011, at 8 a.m. on the Joliet Junior College campus. The JJC Holistic Wellness team sponsors this event every year with several activities, demonstrations and by posting a display of Sobering Stories for students passing to witness.

The display, posted in front of the Club Communications Center, includes stories from mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters and wives who all give account of the much abused substance (alcohol) taking someone that they loved.

Each story, although short in size, held deep gravity on the pain of the loss that is felt when someone is loss to alcohol abuse. The display also leaves room for additional stories to be shared.

"The National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week is on a much smaller scale than it typically is at JJC because our coordinator of student activities and holistic wellness, Amy Sims, is still on maternity leave," says Pam Dilday, director of the office of student activities. "Because of her not being able to plan and lead it this year, we opted to just do the displays."

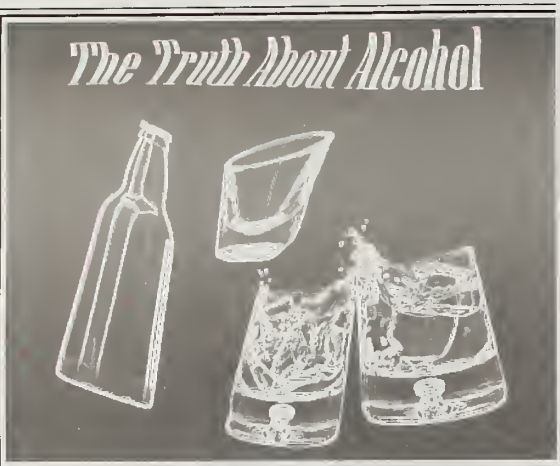
Dilday said that usually there are programs happening on the bridge during the week to go along with the displays.

"Typically, we do some demonstrations with our fatal vision goggles (to simulate drunk driving) and some field sobriety tests with them and have some people share their own stories," Dilday said.

This year the display stands alone and is holding its ground effectively.

"I created that Sobering Stories display and have used it many times since I've been at JJC. It makes the statistics we hear about drunk driving real," says Dilday. "If it can make one person think before they get behind the wheel, then we've accomplished something."

Dilday assures the campus community that Alcohol Awareness Week will be back in full swing with all the events next year.



The dangers of drinking

BY ANTONIO PEREZ
Staff Writer

What are the consequences of drinking too much alcohol? Are there any benefits in drinking alcohol? On Oct. 18, 2011, the topic of the Brown Bag Lecture was alcohol consumption complications.

The lecture was held in the library by Biology Professor Eva Murdoch. Murdoch did a research project on the effects of alcohol. She used mice as her subjects and performed various tests and trials to see what her outcome would be.

Murdoch gave the mice ethanol, which is a type of alcohol, also called drinking alcohol. Ethanol was the only type of alcohol she used to conduct her experiment because ethanol is the only alcohol mice can break down.

It is a good thing that mice are capable of breaking down ethanol because it is the type of alcohol that is found in alcoholic beverages. The mice's ability to do so corresponds to our ability to break down the alcohol.

In her experiment, Murdoch gave the mice 150 milligrams of alcohol which is about two to three drinks. In turn, gave the mice a certain type of injury which is like a bum and then manually inserted bacteria into the mice. There was another group of mice who did not receive any alcohol but had the infection and the burn.

"The mice who did not receive any alcohol, 55 percent of them, survived the injury," Murdoch said. "However, the mice that we gave alcohol to prior to the injury and infection, only 27 percent of them survived."

There is roughly a 50 percent survival rate just by looking at the statistics and nothing else. In other studies she found out that lung inflammation increased in mice exposed to alcohol.

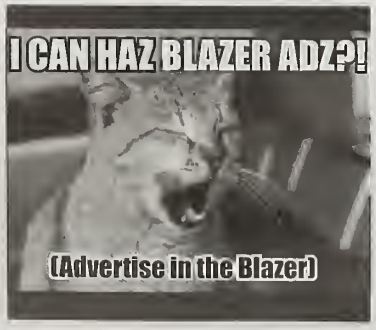
Murdoch went on to talk about neutrophils and what they do in our body. Neutrophils help fight infection and they roam through the body at a rapid speed until they encounter a problem they slow down and go to the infected area to fix the problem.

This process is called neutrophil rolling. The way the neutrophil would kill the bacteria is that it would wrap itself around the bacteria and kill it. Once alcohol and the burn come into play the neutrophils decrease in function, ergo making it harder for our body to rehabilitate.

"You often hear people say when they are sick that they will have a glass of whiskey to make themselves feel better," said Murdoch. "They don't realize that when you drink alcohol while you are sick it makes it worse."

If you would like to know more about what effects alcohol has on our body, talk to Murdoch. She will be more than happy to tell you about it.

Murdoch ended her lecture with a picture of the Bulgarian National Theatre in Sofia because she is Bulgarian and always likes to end her lectures with that picture.



SPRITE hosts family event

BY YOLANDA LAWS
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Oct. 15th, Joliet Junior College's SPRITE Club and early childhood center hosted the Build Your Own Baby Scarecrow event.

The people from the SPRITE Club and the early childhood center took baby clothes that had been donated and washed them and were used them to make the baby scarecrows. They put a pile of hay in the middle of the ground and parents and kids would stuff the hay in the baby clothes and tie a bag in place of where a head would be.

They let the kids make the baby scarecrow because it makes them feel like they accomplish something. They have been doing the event for five years now and they use the profits to plan on their next activity.

The SPRITE Club and people from the early childhood center try not to change anything for the event because it mostly focuses on family and they want it to be predictable.

Bev Cavanaugh, the coordinator of this event, said that her favorite part of the build your own scarecrow event is "watching the delight in the parent's faces when making the scarecrows with their kids."

When the kids are not building their scarecrow they have full access to the playground area to play. There was also music, a bubble machine and free warm cider and popcorn. There was more food but they have to buy a ticket to get any.

The event had a ticket system where the star ticket was one dollar for the games; the purple ticket was for the scarecrow for $5; the orange ticket was to buy a flower plant for $8; the pink ticket was for a raffle for a toy wagon and it was either $1 for one ticket or $5 for six tickets.

Though it was windy and cold, it still did not stop these families from coming and the volunteers from helping build scarecrows.

Photo courtesy of Early Childhood Center

Jason Cavanaugh helps youngster gather straw for his baby scarecrow.

Photo courtesy of Early Childhood Center

Young attendee puts a dress on her baby scarecrow.

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Arrested for failure to appear

On Oct. 5, Zammound C. Williams was arrested and charged with failure to appear on a suspended license warrant. Williams was apprehended after an incident at Centennial Commons when he and two other men were escorted off campus and given notices of trespass for failing to sign in as guests and refusing to leave a female student's apartment, JJC police said.

Student charged with battery

On Oct. 8, Isaiah L. Brown of Joliet was arrested and charged by the Joliet Police Department with battery and criminal damage to property. According to police, Brown had been walking by a female acquaintance at Centennial Commons when he allegedly tickled her, causing her to drop her phone and break it.

Man discovered in City Center washroom

A homeless man, Brian D. Gholston, was arrested on an active warrant for failure to appear on a domestic battery complaint. According to JJC police, Gholston was discovered in a washroom on City Center campus on Oct. 13. Gholston had been previously trespassed off all JJC properties. He was transported to Will County Adult Detention Facility.

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—Brittany Wolff, Lutheran teacher elementary education with special education endorsement major

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Photos by Kat Boehle

JJC Dance Team performs a number at half-time show at the JJC homecoming football game on Saturday, Oct. 15.

New 'app' will help you save

Cell phone alerts for bargains

BY KAT BOEHLE
Editor-in-Chief

Did you know that with your student ID you can save money at more than 170 different places?

If you did not know, and even if you did, there is an application you can download that will tell you when you are in the vicinity of one of those places. That "app" was the idea of 2010 Cornell University graduate Star Li.

In a recent interview with the Blazer, Li said that she heard of the Student Savings Club during her senior year of college and came up with the idea to make a cell phone application that would alert students whenever they were within a certain distance of a location where they could use their student ID to save money.

"It's great that they have it online, but who's really going to print the list out?" said Li. "I figured it would be easier to just make an app that could remind students and that it (the list) will always be on them."

When Li thought of this idea, it was not possible to execute because phones were not programmed to be able to alert phone users based on their GPS location. However, when the iPhone 4 came out and Android updated, it did become possible.

At that point, Li partnered with a friend of hers who created the code for the application while she worked on the website and graphics.

Thus the application entitled Vidappe was born. The application is always turned on in your phone, and whenever a student gets within a certain distance of a store or restaurant where he or she can get a discount, the phone will alert the user with a message.

"It's like having me following you around and saying 'hey, don't forget about this discount,'" Li said.

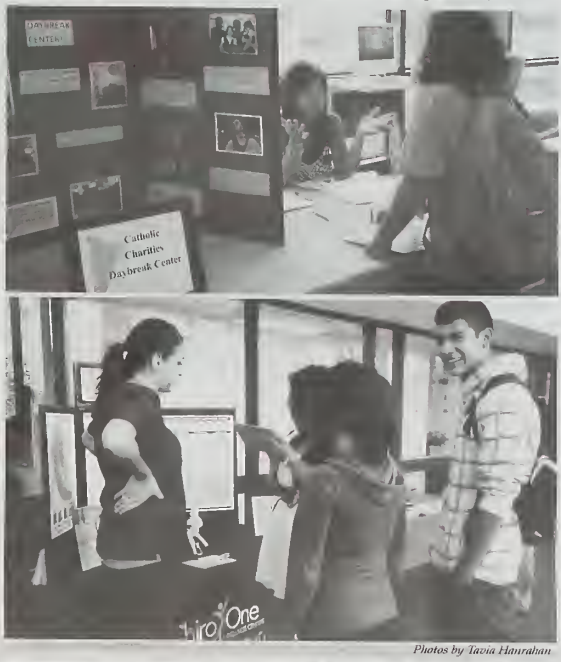
At JJC, Student Government has worked together with the Student Savings Club to give students the opportunity to save money at more than 100 different restaurants as well as other stores.

Li said that the application for iPhone and Android was launched over the summer and is free.

Li also said that Vidappe is not just for JJC students. There are several schools across the country that are synced in to this application. Li is currently working on adding more schools.

"It's awesome that your (JJC) student government is working on this (getting discounts) for students," said Li. "Hopefully people will enjoy this."

Volunteer Fair



Photos by Tavia Hanrahan

Area organizations set up booths in the main concourse on Oct. 12, seeking volunteers. In the Top photo: A representatives Catholic Charity's Daybreak Center speaks to a student. In the bottom photo: a representative from Chiro One Wellness Center converses with potential volunteers.

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'Pillowman' dark humor leaves audience intrigued

Story by Isom Jacobs Photos by Kat Boehle

Top: Colt Erikson, Manzo and Duffy perform in an interogation scene where detective Tupolski gets inside Katurian's head. Right: Kevin Duffy (standing) and Chance Manzo (on floor) share a momentous scene .

The Pillowman is a very dark drama with sharp humor. It was created by Martin McDonagh and presented by the Joliet Junior College theater department.

This story is focused on the unfortunate fate of small children. The main character, Katurian, was brought in for interrogation because his short stories matched the recent unique brutal murders of children.

This play was visibly interesting to the audience. *Strange murders and Katurian* seemingly innocent, but without a doubt an unknown connection had anticipation building within the audience during the breaks. The story had more of a twist than just proving someone's innocence and it became darker as the play developed.

Katurian had a dark childhood as he was developing his writing skills, which is what resulted in intensely black short stories. The name, The Pillowman, is one of his stories, but like many of his stories this one deals with people dying. The Pillowman's job was to resolve suicides in an unorthodox way, and in the end it became a tragedy.

The acting of Katurian showed the message of confusion and fear and it involved sudden movements and fearful gestures at the very moment one of the police officers made a threatening movement. The amount of stress shown in Katurian brought on by the two officers was reflected in the glued eyes of the audience.

The two interrogating officers included the brutal police officer Ariel and the cunning detective Tupolski. Ariel's attitude was that police brutality was acceptable as long it can stop crimes from happening.

A notable part in the play was when Ariel was explaining about his part in the police force and brutality by saying that the person may not have done the crime but he will think twice before even raising his voice to a child.

Ariel also admitted to his lack of ability to solve crimes so he thought it would be better to force it out – this could be due to the tragic childhood that he had to endure.

Tupolski had the personality of a smart calm officer that often played mind games on Katurian and sometimes even on Ariel.

The play had overall solid character personas each with a story to tell and the acting cast managed to capture the personalities and they looked natural. The dialogue was not censored making an angry outburst more realistic.

The Pillowman is popular and has been shown on Broadway and other major theaters and yet different enough to not be the same as the majority of plays.

The next JIC production will be Dark of the Moon by Howard Richardson and William Berney and will be showing Nov. 17-20.

Above: Ryan Bennet plays Katurian's older brother.
Top Right: Manzo and Bennet share a dialogue scene.
Right: Manzo, who plays Katurian, tells a short story which is shown by action taking place behind a curtain.

Roshelle Cipriani and Chris Cummings perform a comedic scene where Cummings' character gets hit with an ironing board.

Warren Dalley and Sylmarie Soto perform a scene where a Dalley's character discovers that his ex-girlfriend is getting married.

JJC theater presents love story 'Almost, Maine'

Story By Tavia Hanrahan

Photos courtesy of JJC Media

Michael Vella and Jessica Hall play teenagers who express 'new unfamiliar feelings'.

From Oct. 6-9, the JJC theater department presented Zach Bloomfield's version of John Camini's Almost, Maine.

It is a cute love story that follows a series of couples. It focuses on the different ways people are affected by love from first loves to lost loves and surprise loves.

The love stories were very relatable because they showed the huge range of scenarios that people can encounter when they fall in love.

The couples varied from two teenagers expressing new unfamiliar feelings, two friends that realize that they are in love with each other and a married couple that is losing their love. It also included a woman who tracks down her former lover to find him married and a man who is chasing a former love.

The mood of this play was endearing and despite the few broken hearts in the story the audience left with a sense of warmth.

The set of Almost, Maine was very representative of a snow globe. The trees looked like the plastic trees painted with just enough snow inside snow globes. The set was very circular with the stage itself on a circle turn table and the lights rounded the borders of the set.

The moving snowflake lights in between each scene were reminiscent of the moving snowflakes when on a shaken snow globe. It gave the feel that you shook the snow globe to see the next story and gave a consistency that threaded the stories together.

The play is set under the romantic northern lights, except the audience could not really see this light display.

Actors played multiple roles, which created some confusion among some audience members, but was a strategic move to show that the story was slipping in and out of reality. This proved itself appropriate because some of the stories seemed like a dream.

Jessica Galang and Antonio Perez play a couple who discuss "giving each other's love back."

Faith Barry and Kristopher Hamilton play a married couple who are trying to reignite the flame.

Warren Dalley and Jessica Galang play friends who discover something more.

'Dexter' kicks off its sixth season

By Tavia Hanrahan
Advertisement Manager

America's favorite serial killer is back.

We start season six in a very familiar scene that we saw in season one. Dexter starts the season with the same gumption he started the series with.

Ever since the Trinity Killer slaughtered Rita in season four, which was the best season yet, Dexter just did not have the same atmosphere. Season five was surprisingly tame with Dexter defending Lumen and the season finale was the only one that did not end with a cliff hanger. But now the thrill is back for season six.

Now we see Dexter with no wife and no step-children resorting back to that hunter that he was repressing during his marriage. Except one thing is not the same, Dexter has his son, Harrison.

In season six the murderer that Miami Metro is chasing is actually two people. It is a twisted teacher-student duo played by Colin Hanks as the student and Edward James Olmos as his teacher of religion.

They are using their victims to show excerpts from the Bible. They "cleanse" their victims in the crypt of an abandoned Cathedral and then leave them to be found.

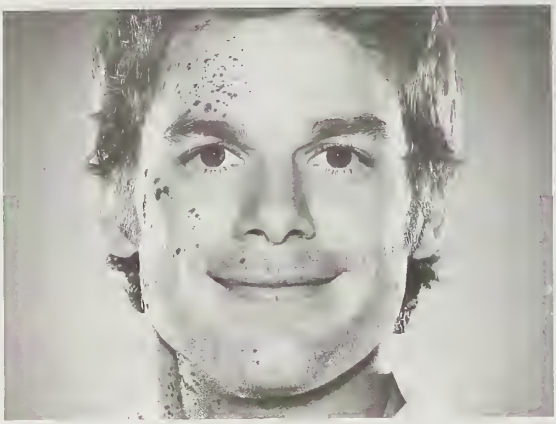
This leaves Dexter thinking about religion. He is a proclaimed atheist but is wondering if religion would be beneficial for Harrison. So he enrolls Harrison in a Catholic preschool that Batisa recommended.

He also befriends Mos Def who is an ex-convict that has changed his life around by becoming a man of God and runs an auto shop for other released felons to change themselves.

Harrison's wellbeing is a huge factor throughout this season because as Dexter completes each chase he is constantly wondering what will happen to Harrison and how things will play out when he is older.

Deb, who is still dating Quinn until he proposes to her, gets promoted to Lieutenant of Miami Metro, which relieves Dexter because now his sister is leading the department that could one day hunt him down.

This season has just started, but looks like it will be a great season with a killer duo that might hold up in the competition with John Lithgow's performance as the Trinity Killer in season four.



Michael C. Hall returns as Dexter for his sixth season. *Photo courtesy of Showtime*

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Film Review

In Paranormal Activity 3, sisters Katie and Kristi perform the 'Bloody Mary' ritual in their bathroom. *Photo courtesy of Paramount*

New 'Paranormal' does series justice

Third installment considered a 'quality over quantity' viewing

BY JORDAN BISHOP
Staff Writer

While multiple critics give the film a hard time because of its changeless and synonymous spools and scares, I on the other hand have to say that this movie was rather preternatural and unique. Granted it is the third movie for the series but the producers, Oren Peli and Jason Blum, do a spectacular job at making the audience itch in their own skin as they watch the spin-chilling phenomenon unravel.

Unlike most films the paranormal movies have started off in the present and worked their way to the past. In other words, each film gets older. Paranormal Activity 3 takes place in 1988.

Sisters Krisi and Katie, who we have seen in the previous two paranormal films as adults, are young girls who befriend an unobservable existence.

As many already know, the film is recorded by the family themselves with personal hand-held cameras placed throughout their home. Crazy events begin to take place as the sisters and their parents continue to crave answers.

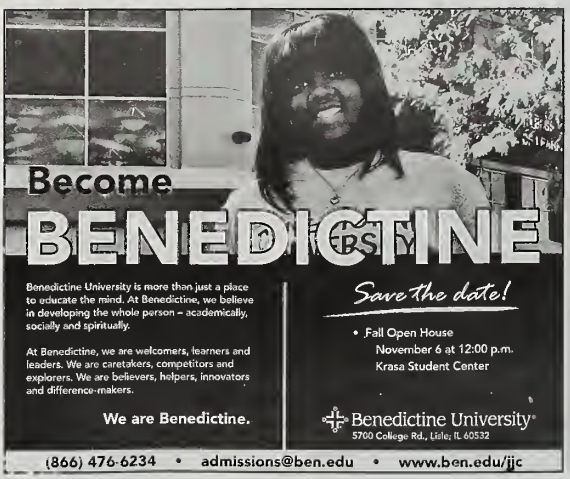
Being a thrillers film fan it seems like it is difficult for the ending of PA3 to top or even come close to its sister films. Just as surprised as the other 150 people in the theater, it most definitely matched up if not exceeded my expectations.

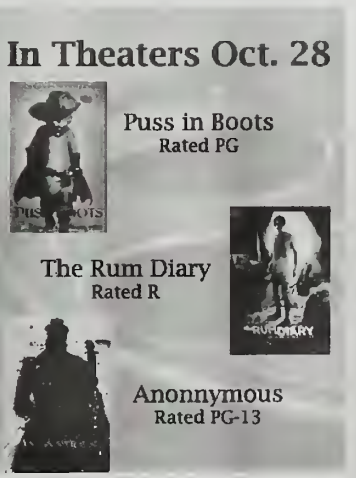
The ending had such a twisted and paralyzing curve ball that it will leave you asking yourself questions that can easily be answered by paying attention to every minor detail throughout the movie.

It is movies like this that people including myself hate to love due to the fact that we cannot wait to see it but cannot stand to go home to an empty house alone afterwards.

If a thriller/horror movie has the capability of putting people on edge and filling their veins with blood-boiling cries of terror, then I think it is safe to say that it has earned the right to be a horror film.

On a scale of one to five I would give this movie an even four. For the film only lasting an hour and 24 minutes, it really did wonders for me and I guess the old saying really is true, 'quality over quantity.'





'Reign' falls short

By Carlos Williamson
Copy Editor

Carnivorous-fury is most accurate in describing the ghouls in Len Barnhart's novel Reign of the Dead. This is Barnhart's first zombie novel of a series.

Construction worker Jim Workman is the main character in the story whose only goal is to seek refuge from decaying flesh-eaters. Eventually, Workman finds a band of survivors who share the same intentions as he travels across Virginia to scavenge for much needed resources.

An unknown virus is the root to this horror, which causes the recently deceased to reanimate and gorge on the flesh of the living. As in most zombie novels and movies, once someone is bitten death and reanimation is inevitable.

Barnhart's novel is more than satisfying in terms of carnage and gore. However, Reign of the Dead is filled with banalities common to other zombie novels, which make it slightly unoriginal and tedious.

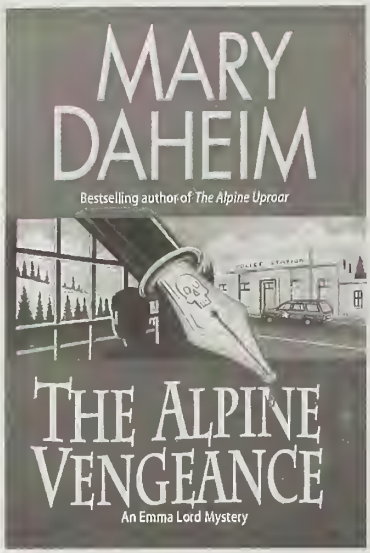
Since this is Barnhart's first novel, there is a hint of *amateurism throughout the book*. He limited the potential of how good the story could have been by choosing to focus on one city being affected by the crisis.

It was enjoyable nonetheless. Although Reign of the Dead is similar to most zombie novels by featuring a group of survivors led by a well-equipped alpha male, bigotry coupled with racial tension added yet another element to endure.

Zombie fans will enjoy this *novel*, but people who are looking for a book that's not only interesting but well written in terms of uniqueness and creativity will not.

At best Reign of the Dead is good, but it is definitely not World War Z. Reign of the Dead: Apocalypse End and Reign of the Dead: Outbreak are the next books in the series, but they are no more interesting than the original.

In order for his final novel to surpass his previous work – it has not been published or titled yet – Barnhart will have to improve his creativity and writing style tremendously.



New mystery leaves reader wanting more

By Kelsi Bertheaume
Staff Writer

Mary Daheim may seem like a new author to many Joliet Junior College students. She was new to me also when I found this book at my public library and was interested in it, because of the title, The Alpine Vengeance.

It sounded like a mystery to me and this did not disappoint. She did write a very good mystery that I had trouble figuring out unlike other mysteries I have read. She kept the pace steady throughout the book making me have trouble putting it down.

When The Alpine Vengeance first started, it is obvious that the book is based in a newspaper office a little after Thanksgiving, seeing as an editor was talking to her house and home editor who just got a letter from someone that either has bad spelling or is just trying to throw the editors off track.

After a while into the book, it gave us the mystery of mysterious letters that the chief of police and the newspaper editor, Emma Lord, both get.

While they are trying to figure out who wrote the letters, many things are happening, with trees being cut down illegally and someone getting shot. Many side mysteries pick up during this story and I enjoyed that a lot.

If you like mysteries, I recommend this book to you, but I warn you that it is the 22nd installment of the Emma Lord mysteries and I got lost a couple of times. The rest of the series is high on my reading list and Daheim has a new reader for her beloved series.

It seems like her books contain mysteries inside of the main mystery, which can be a mystery itself. Many times I had trouble deciding what the mystery was when I read the book because there were so many things going on in the book. Like the tree sawyers and the mystery letters I mention in my first paragraph.

I enjoyed it and recommend this book to anyone that enjoys a mystery.

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Look for Blazer's next issue on Nov. 16!

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Brown Bag Lecture: Genealogy
Thursday, Oct. 27 - 12 p.m. - JJC Library
Domestic Violence Panel
Thursday, Oct. 27 - 12 p.m. - T-1000 & T-1001
Student Government Student Talent Showcase
Friday, Oct. 28 - 6:30 - J-0037
Para Fair
Monday, Oct. 31 - 10 a.m. - Bridge
Private Colleges & Universities Fair
Tuesday, Nov. 1 - 10 a.m. - E/F Concourse
Brown Bag Lecture: "Will County During the Great Depression"
Tuesday, Nov. 2 - 12 p.m. - JJC Library
Open Mic Night
Wednesday, Nov. 3 - 7 p.m. - Bridge
American Red Cross Blood Drive
Monday, Nov. 7 - 9 a.m. - Center Bridge
Veterans Day Ceremony
Thursday, Nov. 10 - 12:15 p.m. - Center Bridge

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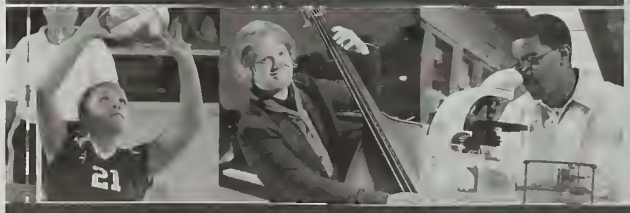

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Volleyball team 'still on fire'

By Kat Boehle
Editor-in-Chief

The Joliet Junior College volleyball team is still on fire having won 11 out of the last 12 games since the last issue of the Blazer.

The Lady Wolves will be heading to the regional tournament with a strong 31-10 overall record and 11-1 N4C record. This record has lifted them to third in the NJCAA national poll. The team has been ranked in the top 10 all season.

"Teams have come in wanting to beat us for the bragging rights, but they (the team) don't let them win," said Head Coach LaKisha Cameron. "That's one thing I'm impressed with this season. They don't give anything away."

Cameron says the last time the JJC volleyball team was ranked this high was in 2001 when the Lady Wolves made it all the way to the national championship game and finished as national runner-ups.

Cameron notes that the team was good last year, but they have taken it to another level this year.

"Last year we were decent, but we were just young," said Cameron. "It's that extra year of experience and bonding. They're determined and really want to go to nationals."

Titles are not the only things the Lady Wolves are pursuing this year. Cameron said that all of the current sophomores are being looked at by scouts from NCAA and NAIA schools.

"This year we had a lot of potential," said sophomore Holly Panock, who plays the specialized defensive position of libero. "We were a lot of talk, and we're living up to that talk."

Among the games that the Lady Wolves have played, four of them were at the Wisconsin Dells tournament on Oct. 14 and 15.

The tournament was started off on the wrong foot with the Lady Wolves falling to Black Hawk College 1-3 with scores of 25-27, 23-25, 25-12 and 21-25.

"We should have won 4-0 (in the tournament) but we lost our first match due to lack of focus," said right-side hitter Laura Wills. "That first game was a bit of a wake-up call."

After that wake up call, the team then went on to beat College of Lake County 3-0. On Oct. 15, the Lady Wolves also beat Jackson Community College, 3-0, and South Suburban College, 3-1.

Outside hitters Mallory Frankovich and Alexis Nelson led the pack in the tournament. Frankovich finished with 48 kills and 101 digs, and Nelson finished with 58 kills and 68 digs.

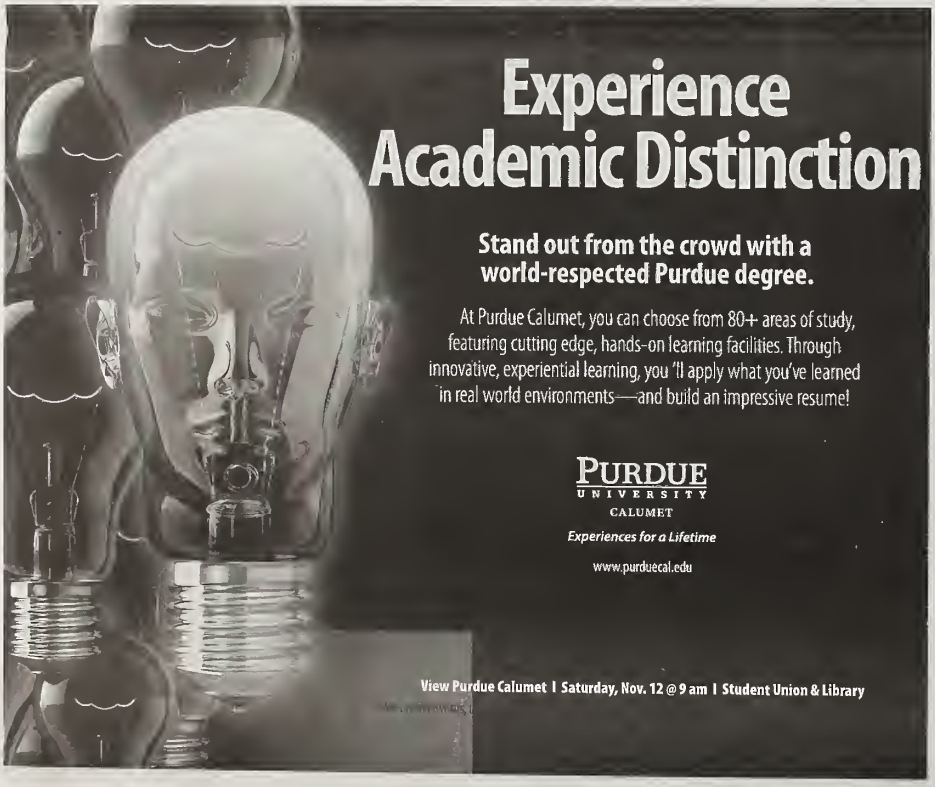
The Lady Wolves dominated Triton College at their most recent home game on Tuesday, Oct. 18. They won 3-0 with scores of 25-17, 25-8 and 25-8. Nelson did her share in that game with six kills and seven digs. Wills contributed with seven kills and two digs.

Cameron and her team believe that momentum from their current success, combined with more hard work, will make them successful at the regional tournament on Oct. 29.

"With how hard we're working in practice, we should definitely come out on top," said Wills. "But it's not going to be easy."

Photo by Kat Boehle

Outside hitter Alexis Nelson saves the ball against Triton College at Oct. 18 home game.



Men's soccer

Wolves advance to region finals

JJC to face Triton CC after topping Waubonsee in semifinals Saturday

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Sports Editor

The Wolves topped Waubonsee Community College, 2-0, on Saturday, Oct. 22, to advance to the Region IV finals against Triton Community College on Wednesday, Oct. 26.

The match will be held in Buffalo Grove at 3 p.m. The winner of the match will advance to the District Championship in Minnesota against the Region XIII champions. The District champion will advance to the national finals in New York, where the top eight teams in the country will square off.

On Saturday's game against Waubonsee, Ivan Rodriguez and Miguel Abarca each scored to pace the Wolves. Coach Cris Trillo said he is confident as they prepare for Triton, who they have played twice previously this season, with Triton winning both games, 2-1 and 1-0

"We matched up real well against them in the two games," Trillo said, indicating that Wolves were not at full strength for either game.

Since the last Blazer came out, the Wolves have been preparing for the playoffs. The Wolves finished the regular season 7-8 and had a 5-4 N4C record before Saturday's win in the semifinals of the N4C tournament.

However, the Wolves had to earn their way in and the men's team came howling in, going 3-1 in its last four regular season games.

These games encompassed games against Harper, Triton, Milwaukee Area Tech, and McHenry Community College.

The Wolves stunned Harper, a conference opponent, by shutting them out, 4-0.

Key offensive standouts were Ivan Del Toro who scored two goals and had one assist. The other two goals came from Alvaro Zavala and Gustavo Moreno. With the Wolves offense on a roll, Rich Wyskiel only had to make four goal saves for the Wolves.

On Oct. 7, the Wolves faced off against Triton College, falling 1-0. Wyskiel recorded seven saves on goal.

The Wolves defeated Milwaukee, 2-1, on Oct. 12. Zavala and Manuel Mireles both scored one goal each, while Del Toro added an assist in the game.

Defensively, Wyskiel had six on goal saves for the Wolves.

On Oct. 14 the Wolves defeated McHenry County College by a score of 4-1 in the last regular-season game. Del Toro earned a hat trick and Moreno scored JJC's other goal.

Miguel Abarca and James Johnson each added an assist.

Women's soccer

Lady Wolves 'back on track'

BY JORDAN BISHOP
Staff Writer

After coming off of a shut out win over Prairie State College, the Joliet Junior College women's soccer team strived to keep the momentum going into their last few games of the season.

On Wednesday, Oct. 5, the Lady Wolves faced off against N4C conference opponent Harper College. Unfortunately, the Wolves' fire was quickly distinguished after the shut out that Harper bestowed upon them.

The loss was a difficult one as it was a shutout of 4-0 leaving their current record at 4-7 overall and 1-3 N4C. Kara Donegan recorded nine saves at goal for the Lady Wolves.

Coming fresh off the loss to a conference opponent the Lady Wolves looked to turn the tables with a major win.

"Practices have gone back to basic soccer, 1 versus 1, 2 versus 2, etc.," said Coach Gino Di Nardo. "We outplay most of the competition but lack the finishing touch to put teams away early."

On Tuesday, Oct. 7, the Wolves played N4C conference opponent Triton College.

After having basic soccer skills minced back into their practices, the Lady Wolves were able to prevail with a win of 7-1. Midfielder Claudia Villanueva led the team with three goals.

Team Captain Caytin Lewin added an additional two goals and Midfielders' Tiffany P'Pool and Bianca Sanchez also scored one goal apiece. The win over Triton left the Wolves' record at 5-7 overall and 2-3 N4C.

Now that the team had finally gotten back on track, they would push forward to the last game of the regular season in high hopes of ending on a good note.

This past Monday, Oct. 17, the Lady Wolves matched up to South Suburban College.

"The game against South Suburban was a good match," said Di Nardo. "Both teams came out strong and wanted to win the last game of the season."

Fortunately, the Lady Wolves' supremacy over South Suburban prevailed and led the way to their second win in a row, 2-1. Both goals came from Lewin.

Lewin has finished her career at JJC with 30 goals and 16 assists while also managing to put two school records under her belt.

Overall the women's soccer team earned a respectable record of 7-7 overall for the regular season.

Tuesday, Oct. 25, the Lady Wolves' will be competing in the Region IV Semifinals in high hopes of advancing to the Region IV Championship on Saturday, Oct. 29.

Not only does the team look forward to advancing but Di Nardo anticipates the team to repeat JJC history.

"The 2008 team was a special team, we were well balanced in every position," said Di Nardo. "They played well together in a unit, something every team needs."

The women's soccer team of 2008 won the title of N4C Conference Champions and with high hopes Di Nardo anticipates the same title for his team this year.

Team captain Caytin Lewin, midfielder, steals ball from Prairie State College player.

Photo by Kat Boehle

SPORTS

Courtney Molton, running back, fends off Grand Rapids offense player as he continues to run down field.

Photo by Kat Boehle

Wolves having trouble keeping up

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Sports Editor

(JJC wolves fell 28-9 to College of Dupage on Oct. 22 bringing their record down to 4-4 overall and 3-3 MFC. The following article was written prior to that game.)

Since the last issue came out, the Wolves have played Air Force Academy JV and Grand Rapids.

On Oct.7, the Wolves played non-conference opponent Air Force Academy JV. The Wolves would play against a triple option attack from Air Force.

The name "triple option" comes from the different ways the quarterback can distribute the ball. One option is that he can hand it off to the fullback, another is to run an option with the halfback and if he so chooses he can even pass.

This multiple look offense confused the Wolves at first allowing 12 total points but standing firm after the first few looks.

"We didn't seize the moment," says Head Coach Jeremy Richardson.

The Wolves could only put up three points the entire game. Those points came in the form of a field goal from Kyle Battle who made a 32 yard field goal.

The defensive efforts from Curtis Brown and Jinks Arnold led the Wolves with four solo tackles each. Jeffrey Brown accumulated two sacks and Austin Copley finished with one sack.

Jarrell Dillard recorded an interception for the Wolves that limited the opposition. The game ended with the Air Force Academy on top with a final score of 12-3.

The next game for the Wolves was against the sixth nationally ranked Grand Rapids on Oct. 15, which was the JJC homecoming game. Against Grand Rapids, the Wolves were only able to put up seven points but battled to the end nonetheless.

The only offensive score for the Wolves was Dante Tolbert who scored on a two yard run in the second quarter to provide JJC's only score. Battle held true on the PAT.

Quarterback Christopher Rokita passed for 180 yards (18-for-38), which is 47 percent for the day. Valanari Hope and Courtney Molton both received five passes from Rokita and kept a downfield presence. The Wolves had three turnovers.

"You can't have too many mistakes when you play a top 10 ranked team in the country," says Richardson.

Defensively for the Wolves, Terrence Baker acquired 11 tackles, six of them being solo, while Brandon Dixon also recorded five solo tackles. J. Brown received one and a half sacks, while Jonathan Toliver chalked up an interception.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

BY ERIC MONAHAN

With the men's soccer regular season finishing on Oct.14, the Wolves have found a highlight performer offensively. Del Toro scored five goals and accumulated two assists over the last four regular season games for the Wolves, helping them to earn a bye week in the first round of the playoffs.

See playoff story on page 15.

Ivan Del Toro

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

With the Lady Wolves volleyball team regular season nearing an end, the team has reached new heights. It is no wonder, then, that the volleyball team continues to collect Athlete of the Issue awards. This issue's female athlete is Laura Wills, who is listed as a Right-side-Middle-hitter for the Lady Wolves and has provided an offensive presence. Wills currently has 228 kills for the season, which gives her an average of six kills a game.

Laura Wills

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Board eliminates football program

BY KAT BOEHLE
Editor-in-Chief

After 61 years of competition, including a national championship in 2002, the Joliet Junior College football program was eliminated at the Nov. 8 board meeting by a vote of 7-1.

Interim President Frank Zeller said cost and the requirements of Title IX, a law that requires gender equity in collegiate sports, were the two main factors that ultimately helped the trustees make their decision to eliminate the program.

According to the JJC Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, the football team costs the college on average $476,000 per year compared to the baseball program, the next highest costing sport, at $232,874 per year.

Athletic Director Wayne King said that the large costs are in part the salaries of the coaching staff of two full-time coaches and six part-time coaches, equipment for about 90 players and traveling to away games.

"What was helping to increase those costs was the traveling," said Kelly Rohder, the director of communications and external relations. "With so few schools left in the state, we kept traveling further and further."

According to Rohder, although Title IX has been in existence since 1972, only recently has the U.S. Department of Justice become more firm with making sure the colleges are in compliance with the law.

With the football program active, there were 159 male athletes while there were only 73 female athletes. This meant that the JJC athletic department was not equal in offerings to both sexes, Rohder said.

If JJC did not choose to get rid of the football program, the college would have had to spend more money in order to create more athletic opportunities for women to even out the numbers, according to Rohder. By eliminating the football program, the athletic department is now more balanced between sexes.

The only vote against eliminating the football program was from Trustee Susan Klen, who believes that the program is a valuable asset to JJC.

"I felt we needed to save the football program to keep providing education and future career opportunities for the approximately 90 young men in the program," said Klen. "With only a couple community college football teams left in Illinois, what will happen to the players that we have now and would have recruited in the future?"

While Klen acknowledges the high costs of the program, she believes that the cost was minimal if one were to view the money as an investment for the future of all of those who participated in the program.

Although Klen is happy to see the government taking Title IX more seriously, she wishes JJC would have achieved gender equity by expanding the athletic program instead of eliminating the football program.

While Zeller cites cost and Title IX as the key points for the board decision, Trustee Michael

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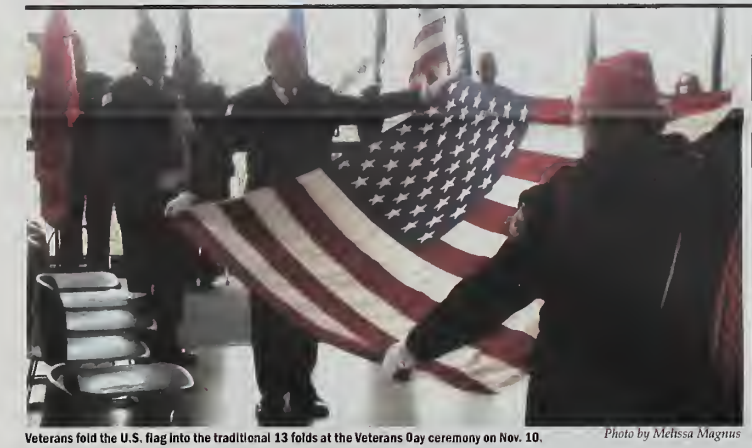

Veterans fold the U.S. flag into the traditional 13 folds at the Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 10. *Photo by Melissa Magnus*

JJC hosts annual Veterans Day ceremony

BY JORDAN BISHOP
Staff Writer

Nov. 11 of each year is dedicated to the remarkable men and women of the United States of America who risk their lives to keep our nation free.

This past Thursday, Joliet Junior College gathered and honored past and present veterans in honor of Veterans Day.

The bridge was filled with young and mature veterans who were either retirees or still honoring our country.

As the national anthem was sung by Ryan Bennett, JJC alumnus, all students, staff, alumni and veterans bowed their heads in honor of our country. Each note of the anthem echoed throughout the bridge sending chills through the air.

Commander Cecilia Seabrook took the podium and presented the Veterans Day introduction to the ceremony.

Following that was a moment of silence that was so powerful that it could have been heard around the world.

As the flag folding demonstration took place, Seabrook described the meaning of each of the 13 folds.

"When the Flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our Nation's motto, 'In God We Trust,'" says Seabrook.

Shortly following the folding of the flag was the Songs of the

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The afterlife of a star

BY CHALISSE BREEDEN
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2011, the University of Chicago's astrophysicist Vikram V. Dwarkadas, Ph.D. gave an astronomy talk from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in room D-2001.

The talk covered the mysteries of supernova remnants. Dwarkadas explained that stars heavier than eight solar masses end their lives in cataclysmic explosions. These explosions are known as supernovae.

The materials that are ejected – which amazingly reach speeds of around 40,000 kilometers per second – expand outwards creating huge shells of gas called supernova remnants.

"After 30 years of study, scientists still don't know why this happens," says Dwarkadas, who also had actual images to present.

Those in attendance, which included a few children, also learned about pulsars. Pulsars occur when neutron stars form

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EDITORIAL

What will happen with the money?

As reported on the front page, the Joliet Junior College football program was eliminated after 61 years of competition.

The primary reasons were cost and Title IX, a federal law that requires gender equity in collegiate athletics.

While the decision became necessary, it is unfortunate that approximately 90 student athletes will be adversely affected.

So, the question now is, what will happen to the annual $476,000 that the college will no longer be spending on the football program?

The Blazer understands that the college will probably be looking to save some money. In these economic times, that makes sense. However, we were also thinking about what Trustee Michael O'Connell had to say about using the money to benefit more students.

Although a football program is a nice thing to have, the almost half a million dollars that was being spent to fund it is money that we believe could be used to benefit a whole lot of students at JJC.

Even if the college were to use only $100,000 of that money for other student activities and clubs, it could benefit a lot of the active students on campus and create more activities for a more positive college experience.

The college could even consider adding some less-expensive sports such as tennis or golf.

Witb the college growing, there will likely also be more students in need of financial assistance, so perhaps some of the money could go towards creating more scholarships.

This is an opportunity for the college to turn what appears to be a negative into a positive. Instead of mourning the loss of the football program, we can take this opportunity to serve even more students than the 90 served by that program.

Heroin use on the rise in southwest suburbs

BY TAVIA HANRAHAN
Advertisement Manager

The suburbs have always been known as safe place to raise a family, but the suburbs are facing a huge problem. Heroin.

Heroin use is becoming an increasing problem in the southwest suburbs, particularly among younger people.

So why are all these suburbanites being drawn to this horrible drug?

In observation, I have noticed pharmaceutical abuse, in particular downers, is leading the way to letting medication act as gateway drug.

Certain drugs have a similar effect on the body as heroin, such as painkillers and benzodiazepines.

Partnership for a Drug Free America defines drugs such as Codeine, OxyContin, Percocet and Vicodin as opiate derived painkillers that release a short-term euphoric drowsy feeling. Xanax and Valium are sedatives prescribed to people with anxiety disorders.

All of these drugs have common characteristics of heroin. They are all derived from opiates. They all suppress your central nervous system, slur your speech and bodily function, and do massive harm on your body.

Over the past five years or so I have heard multiple people justify their abuse of pharmaceutical drugs by saying "it is okay, it is just medicine."

But the truth is that medicines are just as addictive as illegal drugs and have been the reason many people throughout the country have had to seek treatment.

The abuse started and continues because they are so easily accessible.

They are found in a parent's medicine cabinet, friend's purses and sometimes even grandma's bedside table.

After so much use of these drugs the human body develops a tolerance and dependence which makes people turn to buying these drugs illegally on the street after their initial source runs dry.

These drugs are not cheap on the black market. According to the DEA, the street price of these pills go for anywhere from $4 to $15 per pill. Heroin because a cheaper, and more effective option for these addicts.

Then their tolerance to heroin increases until they are spending hundreds of dollars a day to support their addiction.

The toll heroin takes on people is a tragedy. Anyone can become an addict. This drug is not only a drug that effects the homeless as some people think. Heroin is not prejudice – it can destroy a person's life regardless of income, ethnicity or religion.

LETTERS TO THE BLAZER

99 percenter speaks out

Dear Editor,

Growing up, we were spoon fed a fantasy of the so-called American Dream. A dream of hard work and just decisions paying off as well as overcoming the barriers of society to have a piece of that stability.

At 20-years-old, all I see is a dream that has been pillaged and plundered by unregulated greed and never ending selfishness.

In the land of milk and honey we find neither milk nor honey, but predigested bile and misery. Crippled by gluttony, our generation is standing on the edge of the abyss.

We have seen the eradication of public education, of labor laws, attacks on women's rights, a denial of rights people based on the private business of their bedrooms, and a decision to give corporations the ability to spend unlimited money on politicians.

Today we have politicians blaming the failures of their greed and culpability on the poorest and most vulnerable of citizens. We have judges turning a blind eye to justice for the benefit of wealthy men and corporations.

We are told that having oversight to make sure we have safe foods and drugs is harmful to corporations. We're told that we cannot afford to fix our broken bridges, but need more tax cuts to the top 1 percent. No more. The top 1 percent has lulled us into a false sense of security, but we are awake now.

This is our time. We march for the family down the street wbo've had their lives stolen by greedy bankers. Our spirits strong and we refuse to give in to the hatred that has been used against us for too long.

Together we pick up those beaten down. United against greed, we stand arm in arm for a better tomorrow for all generations. We are the 99 percent... our time is now and our future is within our grasp.

Victor Mata

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Letter Policy

The Blazer encourages participation from readers through letters. Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authenecity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less.

We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at F-1009.

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Armed Forces. Each of the five branches of the military was able to rise in honor of their branch song.

The songs included were "Anchors Aweigh" for the U.S. Navy, "United States Marine Corps Hymn" for the U.S. Marine Corps, "Semper Paratus" for the U.S. Coast Guard, "The Caisson Song" for the U.S. Army and "The Army Air Corps Song" for the U.S. Army Air Corps, now known as the U.S. Air Force.

Following the songs, students and staff presented brief and succinct presentations about veterans here on campus attending JJC and working towards their future goals.

As the ceremony began wrapping up, JJC's Chamber Singers took the stage to honor the veterans of past and present generations by singing "America the Beautiful."

The retirement of colors took place shortly after and concluded the ceremony.

To end the day on a superior note, the college provided refreshments and cake for all attendees and veterans, but what made the moment so special was the cutting of the cake.

The oldest and two youngest veterans shared a moment beside one another to cut the first piece.

Such a simple task was presented to the three men, but now they will forever hold a bond and a brotherhood with one another.

From the wise words of LTC Jimmy Doolittle, World War II veteran, "Nothing is as strong as the heart of a volunteer."

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cafeterias, but also goes to the big meat and vegetable companies.

Big meat and vegetable corporations will pressure their farmers for lower prices. In addition to having to sell their products for cheaper, farmers also have lots of management fees that keep getting more and more expensive.

Because of all of this pressure, Blanchard says that farm-worker wages are decreasing and food quality keeps getting worse.

"Our generation is the first generation with a lower life expectancy than our parents and it has to do with our diet," Blanchard said.

To close the lecture, Blanchard and Black said their goal with the Real Food Challenge is to shift $1 billion of the $5 billion spent on food for college students from large corporations to buying from local farmers.

"This is all very depressing, but we think there's hope," Black said. "We believe that students are a powerful force for the industry."

They advise students to build committees to work toward getting to talk to administrators about changing where the cafeteria food is coming from. Blanchard believes quiet but firm protests and more education of the college community can make a difference.

"Even if it's a small group of people, because it usually is," Blanchard said.

Black and Blanchard encourage anyone to contact them for more advice by emailing them at midwest@realfoodchallenge.org.

STAR from page 1

within supernova remnants. The rotating neutron stars emit flashes of radiation at extremely precise intervals producing pulsars.

Dwarkadas played a recording for everyone to hear, which interestingly sounded like tapping. The question of why remnant study is even important was also covered.

Dwarkadas explained that when the universe was formed the only elements here were hydrogen and helium. All of the other elements came from stars.

"Even after stars die, massive stars continue to live on forming exotic phenomena," Dwarkadas says. "Objects could persist for up to tens of millions of years."

The India native came to the U.S. to attend graduate school at the University of Virginia. His other research interests include winds and mass loss from stars.

The event was organized by JJC's own Astronomy Professor Noella D'Cruz of the natural sciences department.

FOOTBALL from page 1

O'Connell listed more reasons as to why he voted in favor of eliminating the program.

O'Connell mentioned the lack of students from District 525 (JJC's district) playing on the team as well as the lack of competition in the immediate area. Only two other community colleges in the state have football teams. He also wondered if the money used to fund the program could be used to benefit more JJC students.

"Although dropping football is a negative, I really feel the positive that can come out of this will really outweigh the negatives," O'Connell said.

O'Connell noted that voting to eliminate the program was not an easy thing to do because in 1969 and 1970 he was on the JJC football team as a quarterback and defensive back. But at that time, he added, many more area community colleges offered football, and the majority of players were from the district.

According to O'Connell, well over 85 percent of his team was from the JJC district. According to the JJC Office of Institutional Research, in the last three years 86 percent of the football program has been from out of district, with 25 percent of the team being from out of state.

JJC Student Trustee Kayla Randolph-Clark, who also voted to eliminate the program, said the perception was that many football players were only at JJC to play football.

"From the student perspective, not a lot of football players that are at JJC are here for the right reasons academically," Randolph-Clark said.

She also said the JJC Student Government also discussed the lack of enthusiasm for the sport on campus at a recent meeting.

Randolph-Clark said the only real promotion for football on campus was for the homecoming game.

Although word around the college is that the football program is being eliminated because of the fight that broke out at the College of DuPage game at COD on Oct. 22, both King and Zeller deny that the DuPage incident had anything to do with the final decision.

The athletic department is preparing for the next step with staff and players. Before dealing with equipment and other issues, King said his staff will work to support the students in the program.

"We just tore away these kids' passion," King said. "Football is the love of their life, and our responsibility is to make the transmission as smooth as possible."

On Nov. 14, Head Coach Jeremy Richardson began meeting with each player to talk to them one-on-one about their futures.

King said that Richardson and the rest of the staff will be helping the students to create recruiting videos in hopes of getting them on other teams. King said that he has already started getting calls from coaches interested in recruiting some of JJC's players.

As for the coaching staff, King said that the contracts of the six part-time coaches had already run out at the end of the season. Richardson and fellow full-time defensive coordinator Jeremy DeWolf will be working with the students until their contracts run out at the end of April 2012.

King said that he had been to several meetings concerning the possibility of eliminating the football program prior to the Nov. 8 board meeting, but he did not share the details with the coaching staff or players because he did not want them distracted during the season.

In the meantime, King said he expects the student-athletes to finish this semester. Some will be moving on and others will finish out the school year.

"Our belief has always been that our athletes are students first," Zeller said. "To that end, we will continue to provide academic support to our players and ensure their educational success through the rest of their time here at JJC."

Resisting arrest

On Oct. 25, William C. Alstott was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and resisting an officer, according to campus police.

After someone blew an air-horn in the E-concourse on JJC main campus, a responding officer approached Alstott regarding the incident.

Police said that Alstott resisted the officer and verbally protested with the use of foul language. Police said that they then arrested and charged him with disorderly conduct and resisting an officer, and issued him a notice of trespass.

It was not confirmed whether Alstott blew the air horn or not.

Man charged with assault and trespass

On Oct. 26, Leonardo R. Watson of Chicago was arrested and charged with criminal trespass to residence, disorderly conduct and assault, according to campus police.

Police said that Watson had let himself into a centennial commons apartment where three women resided. After confronting the women, he walked up to one, shook her hand and abruptly left the room.

Watson was later seen in another woman's apartment. When police asked her if she had seen him, she initially denied that he had been there. Police said that after hearing what had happened to the other women, she then admitted that Watson had been there.

Later that day officers were dispatched to, the original apartment with the three women. Watson had apparently returned to threaten the women, police said.

Watson was then arrested and charged and was given an I-bond of $1500 with a court date set for Dec. 14. Watson was charged a week later in another incident, as noted in the following report.

2 charged with mob action

On Nov. 2, Dimitri W. Allen of Joliet and Leonardo Watson of Chicago were both arrested and charged for mob action after they, along with 11 other unidentified individuals, ran into an apartment and started punching the victim, police said.

Police said the victim contacted authorities after the incident, and one JJCPD officer and two Joliet Police Department officers responded. The victim identified Watson and Allen but was unable to identify any of the other 11 men.

According to police, the victim said he was visiting a friend's apartment when the 13 men rushed into the apartment and started to punch him in regards to an alleged stolen textbook. The victim denied having stolen the textbook.

Police picked up Allen and Watson and arrested and charged them with mob action. Watson was also trespassed off all JJC campuses and was given a 10-day notice of eviction from his centennial apartment. It was the second incident he had been involved in within a week.

Allen was given an I-bond of $150 and Watson was given one of $120. Their court date is set for Dec. 14.

JJC panel discusses domestic violence

Students learn how to identify signs of potential offenders

BY CHALISSE BREEDEN
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Oct. 27, 2011, Joliet Junior College housed a Domestic Violence Panel from 12 p.m to 1:30 p.m. This is an annual event at JJC taking place every October in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The panel was moderated by Sherri Morrow of JJC Counseling, the department of which was full of experts of the issue. They gave tips on identifying domestic violence and how to access available resources.

Students, faculty and staff filled the room leaving nothing but standing room left for those who continued to pile in to the room after the panel discussion started.

The seriousness of the issue was immediately felt opening with a showing of the video "Love the Way You Lie" by rap artist Eminem featuring Rihanna, which graphically depicts the dysfunctional faces of the issue.

Commander Melvin Cornelius was one of the first speakers to address the many in attendance speaking on JJC's policies and how the matter is handled on campus.

"It's completely unacceptable here," says Cornelius.

He says offenders are held accountable, even to the extent of taking pictures of them and passing them around campus. JJCPD also helps victims to obtain orders of protection.

Kathy Craven and Heather Meyer from the Will County State's Attorney Domestic Violence Unit spoke about their office's direct involvement with domestic violence.

The office uses vertical prosecution and is uniquely designed because of the various sensitive natures of Domestic Abuse. This allows the office to become familiar to the history of domestic violence and the faces of repeat offenders.

Craven and Meyer also say that the State does its best to remove as many pressures from the victim as possible by making it "the people" that file charges and not the victim. The office is also responsible for all filing and dropping charges.

Cheryl Pristas, a case manager from Groundwork, was one of the last on the panel to speak. Groundwork is a domestic violence program that addresses the needs of domestic violence victims and provides critical resources to help them break the cycle of family violence.

It offers a 24-hour hotline for survivors, individual counseling for men, women, and children and legal advocates to help victims get help.

Pristas also discussed the cycles and signs of abuse as well as actions that should be taken once someone is sure of domestic abuse.

"They love the offender but they want the abuse to stop," says Sherri Morrow as the panel came to its conclusion. "It's the concept of love that is unhealthy."

JJC Hosts Para Fair

Photos by Melissa Magnus

On top left: Student participates in a psychic reading. On top right: Student participates in the energy rod exercise which absorbs energy from the body and make the rods rotate a certain way. In the picture above: Student has her future told through a card reading.

Will County during the Great Depression

Brown bag lecture presented by Professor Dennis Doyle

By Gina Caponigro
Staff Writer

The most recent lecture in the Brown Bag Lecture series was "Joliet and Will County During the Great Depression" presented by Professor Dennis Doyle and sponsored by the Professional and Personal Development Committee.

The lecture took place on Wednesday, Nov. 2, in the library in front of a small crowd. It was a very factual lecture that described the hardships the city of Joliet, Will County and the people inhabiting those areas went through during the Great Depression.

The catalyst to the Depression was the stock market crashing on Oct. 29, 1929, otherwise known as "Black Tuesday." Doyle said that he actually knew someone who was born one "Black Tuesday" in which they said to Doyle, "At least I didn't cause the crash."

The crash caused panic all over the world, but more startling figures hit close to home. Will County's unemployment rate was at 26 percent, the Joliet National Bank froze accounts from 1931 to 1933 and people began to stockpile money in jelly jars and under their mattresses because they no longer trusted the banks.

The Will County National Bank failed to open in July of 1933 in which thousands of bank customers lost their accounts.

"I didn't go hungry during the Great Depression, but I knew people who did" was a famous quote by Studs Turkel, author of Hard Times. This book came up frequently during the presentation and really solidified how tough living during the Great Depression really was.

45 percent of home, real estate and business ownership failed during the 1930's. The birth rate in the '30s was extremely low because during the time no one could afford to raise a child. Whatever money people did have was spent on food and they would buy just enough to feed their families.

The lecture not only discussed the hardships during the Depression, but also of how Joliet, Will County and the rest of the global economy started on the road to recovery following the stock market crash.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected president in 1933 and the economy began to pick up again. On March 13, 1933, the First National Bank of Joliet reopened along with 77 other banks across Illinois.

The creation of the FDIC in 1934 and the enforcement of Roosevelt's "New Deals" began to dig the economy out of the hole it was once purged in. The Marshall Plan revitalized the European market. The National Recovery Act created new jobs along with the ending of Prohibition in 1933.

"You have to know your roots, where you're from," said Doyle when asked why people should know what Joliet and Will County were like during the Great Depression. "Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat."

Doyle first got the idea to present the lecture by his fascination with the 1930's and researching this period and World War II. He credits his research to the Joliet Public Library and to Fred Harris of the Joliet and Will County Historical Society.

DISCOVER JJC

Photo by Melissa Magnus

A technical department employee, left, speaks to potential student.

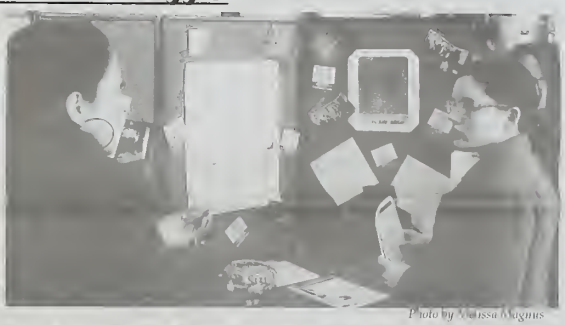


Photo by Melissa Magnus

A criminal justice employee, left, informs a potential student about law enforcement courses at JJC.

'Real Food Challenge' visits JJC

By Kat Boehle
Editor-in-Chief

On the evening of Thursday, Oct. 27, the Real Food Challenge tour came to Joliet Junior College to educate students about the state of the current food system.

The Real Food Challenge is a national movement that partners with many organizations with a goal of educating college students on the food being served in their cafeteria. Each region has a different field team that tours the region to talk to different universities.

Recent college graduates Katie Blanchard and Carmen Black gave the presentation to a small but engaged group of students and faculty. The two had been touring the Midwest from Minnesota to Ohio and working their way back again for three weeks with JJC marking one of their last trips.

They started the lecture by having everyone in attendance draw a picture of what they thought of when thinking of "the food system." They also showed their "real food wheel" that was in four parts including producers, earth, consumers and communities.

All four parts of the wheel had subcategories including farmers, labor and farm workers for the "producers" corner; climate, animal and natural resources for the "earth" corner; access, health and celebration for the "consumers" corner; and cultures, education, control and economics for the "communities" corner.

"It's the interconnections of these issues that are so important," Blanchard said.

Blanchard then said that people often ask why the Real Food Challenge focuses on students instead of the issues in the real food wheel. She said that three main reasons are community, wanting to work for systemic change and that they believe students hold a lot of power.

Black then went on to talk about the main reason why she and Blanchard come to talk at college campuses is about college food services and what a big industry it is.

According to Black, the college food industry brings in $18 billion of revenue every year and $5 billion is spent on buying food for college students.

The main problem with the college food industry is that 70 percent is controlled by corporate businesses while only 30 percent is controlled by the actual college. JJC is part of this 30 percent that controls the food the cafeteria buys.

Only three corporations control 87 percent of the 70 percent controlled by corporations. These three corporations are Sodexo, Aramark and Compass Group.

According to Black and Blanchard, these three corporations will make all of their colleges buy their meat from a big meat company in order to get a kickback. Because of this, colleges cannot buy their food from any local farmers.

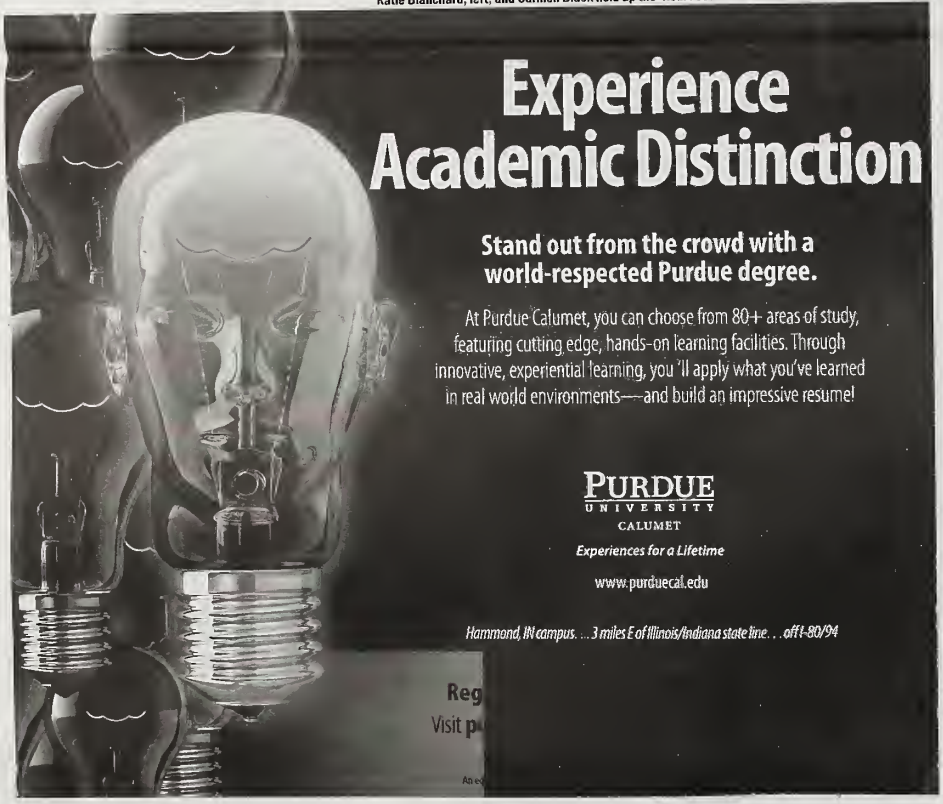
Black also claimed that these corporations pay people of color less and the majority of their managers are Caucasian males. The majority of their employees are also getting paid below the poverty line, Black said.

However, Blanchard said that the corruption does not stop at the corporations that own college

See FOOD on page 3

Katie Blanchard, left, and Carmen Black hold up the 'Real Food' wheel.

Photo by Kat Boehle



Citizens participate in 'Occupy Chicago'

Protesters angry about cuts to city libraries, schools and social security

BY SARA WESTON
Staff Writer

Occupy Wall Street is a series of demonstrations that has spawned similar protests internationally, but with particular focus in the U.S. "Occupy" movements nationally are composed of protesters who want more and better jobs, a more equal distribution of income, bank reform, and a reduction of the inappropriate control and influence of corporations and banks on American politics.

In Chicago, protesters are angry about recent cuts to city libraries, schools, and public safety nets such as Medicare and Social Security. On Sept. 17, about a thousand New Yorkers began to occupy the Wall Street financial district. Similar protests have spread across the nation.

Anger about the bail-outs of banks and corporations amid a financial recession (encompassed in the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008), high unemployment rates, and the seeming impossibility of paying for a college education are all a common theme of these protests.

"Occupy" protests also call for the mass of working, middle, and lower-class Americans - the "99 percent" - to seize political power and "regain" participatory democracy from the wealthiest of Americans. Available data suggests that the wealthiest 1 percent of families owns roughly 34.3 percent of the nation's net worth, the top 10 percent of families owns over 71 percent, and the bottom 40 percent of the population owns less than 1 percent.

Many Americans believe that our country is a plutocracy – a system of government in which rule is determined by wealth – presenting itself as a democracy.

Critics of the nation-wide 'Occupy' protests suggest that the movement's goals and grievances are largely undefined. That the wealthiest people in this country earned their wealth and power fairly and the protesters are largely privileged college kids who should find better things to do. However, the turnout at Occupy Chicago on Oct. 16 – the protest most relevant to the JJC community – was composed of working college students, veterans, professors and many union and trade workers. Among these were quite a few Chicago Teachers Union members who were angry about dramatic cuts to schools' budgets.

The Chicago Federation of Labor and other labor unions have endorsed the group of protesters. Rapper Lupe Fiasco was in attendance for part of the Oct. 16 demonstration and has donated supplies and funds to the group, which has largely congregated outside of the Federal Reserve Bank in the downtown Chicago loop.

Occupy Chicago has also inspired a spin-off group, Occupy the Hood, which is a faction of largely south-side groups bent on bringing people of color into the Occupy movement.

Willie J. R. Fleming, a neighborhood organizer from the South Side, claims that the Occupy movement is "heaven-sent" in that it is providing a catalyst to bring attention to poverty and rising economic inequality.

Recently, protesters have performed acts of civil disobedience in an attempt to secure locations at which to protest and to bring attention to their cause.

At midnight on Oct. 16, after marches of about 2000 people from the Federal Reserve Bank to Grant Park, around 200 protesters were arrested in Grant Park for defying city municipal code, which states that nobody can be in the park after 11 p.m.

They chanted "Whose park? Our park!" and representatives from many union, religious, and politically affiliated groups spoke to the congregation. The Chicago Police Department responded with mass arrests, and the protesters were charged with the violation of a Chicago Parks ordinance.

There was a repeat round of mass arrests once more around midnight on Oct. 23 after a march of around 3000 people (the support and participation of union members have swelled Occupy Chicago's numbers) when around 130 protesters again were arrested for being in Grant Park after 11 p.m. Many of these were repeat arrestees and many plan to continue breaking the Chicago municipal code.

A question is presented by these arrests: Do first amendment rights to peacefully assemble end at a certain place and time? Protesters are unable to mass on streets or sidewalks, out of a concern for public order and safety. The issue of where the group can protest and be heard legally is at the forefront of Occupy Chicago's discussion. On Nov. 7, more than 1000 seniors and their supporters marched the intersection of Jackson and State Street in the Chicago Loop in protest of proposed cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. Fifteen of them linked arms and sat down in the street, stopping traffic.

They were escorted away by the police, and issued citations for "failing to exercise due care." Occupy Wall Street has ignited the frustrations that many Americans have with national and state economic and social issues, and it remains to be seen what comes of these protests.

However, the movement is significant in that it is an ongoing series of the biggest and most controversial protests that have occurred since America's 2008 financial crash. Civil disobedience has re-emerged in the American consciousness in the form of 2011's "Occupy" protests.

'Occupy Wall Street' affects rest of the world

BY HUNTER THOMAS
Staff Writer

"Whenever the people are well informed, they can be trusted with their own government; that whenever things get so far wrong as to attract their notice, they may be relied on to set them to rights." –Thomas Jefferson, Letter to Richard Price 1789.

As many people in this country may be aware, and more alarmingly many more that are not, there have recently begun a string of protests across the country, and the world, in most every major city collectively known as the "Occupy Movement."

The base for this movement in the United States originates from protests that began mid-September in New York City known as "Occupy Wall Street."

The reason for the location being that Wall Street, the financial district of New York City, is home to many stock exchange headquarters, including the New York Stock Exchange, which is the world's largest stock exchange by market capitalization, or overall traded worth.

The location is also near the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, which works with the Federal Reserve to implement monetary policy, regulate institutions and maintain the nation's payment systems. The New York bank also has the most assets among the 12 federal districts, making it the most influential.

Though an overall, concise goal has not emerged from the people represented in the protests, the common call has been for social and economical justice and equality.

This includes a call for separation between wealthy, profit-driven corporations and their influence on politics. Represented in every major city in America, the movements philosophy is described in their battle-cry, "We are the 99 percent," referring to wealth distribution within this country, being that the wealthiest 1 percent of people have gained the most income in the last 40 years, while the rest have lost their share of income.

This initiative has garnered the attention of many people joining the protests, all from different backgrounds while sharing the same ultimate idea and vision for the future. People in New York have staked Zuccotti Park, a publicly accessible and privately owned park in New York City as a base of operations and renamed it "Liberty Park."

They have set up tents and occupy the park 24 hours a day to peacefully protest. This has inspired many other cities around the country and the world to do the same and to assemble without complacency.

One of the biggest influences the movement had in garnering attention among so initial supporters was through the internet group entitled "Anonymous" who called on its many supporters to join the existing protesters outside Wall Street.

The group has been involved in many online campaigns such as offering avid support to the Arab Spring movements that saw many Middle Eastern countries overthrow their political leaders and the leak of 77 million user profiles personal information that led to the Sony Playstation Network outage last April.

The reasons for the decision calling these people to protest are as abundant as the numerous walks of people who have shown up and continue to arrive in increasing numbers.

One of the main groups of people represented are current and former college students who have amassed large amounts of debt through student loans that are having trouble paying off these debts due to the economy's recession and the continued increase of the nation's unemployment rate, which is reaching upwards of 9 percent.

Many other professions and people are showing up including disgruntled teachers who are upset with public school budgets being cut and the jeopardy of their future pensions, which according to the Chicago Tribune, is a system that is now $40 billion in debt in Illinois alone.

Other people arriving to protest are many of the unemployed in the country, calling for bills to create more jobs that would put some of the nearly 14 million unemployed Americans back to work. Until recently, the general public had only heard of the protests through media outlets reporting on the arrests that had been made in several of the cities.

This includes an early incident involving nearly 1000 arrests on the Brooklyn Bridge, and the recent spring of protestor detainment in the Oakland, Calif. area.

Images and video have also been circulating the Internet depicting acts of unprovoked physical retaliation taken by police against protestors in cities such as New York, Pittsburgh and at the University of California at Berkeley.

The most bothersome of these reports is that the majority of the protests around the country have been non-violent, a stand that is vital to an effective intellectual protest and have been met with a violent or unjust police response.

The growing fear amongst the police and the protestors with the threat of violence only increases the tensions between the two, allowing for even more potentially combustible situations and future conflict.

As with any large mass gatherings these days, there are people that tend to discredit the message of a movement. Many people in Liberty Park have set up tents and occupy the park non-stop, but some of them have allowed the space to become a mess and borderline unsanitary.

One of the main reasons police officers justify their presence and actions at these protests is for this reason. Some people who show up to the protests also openly engage in illegal activities other than public urination, such as public alcohol drinking and the use of drugs.

For the immediate future, this movement appears to be here to stay. Whether these groups will make it through the winter in such cold environments such as Chicago and New York will be a testament to the character of those involved.

The most important thing for the general public will be to find their place within this movement. Because the general message is so broad, many different issues that have been brewing in the country are starting to see the light in the form of general assembly and the similarities of those involved.

Many people are hoping that the movement will, at the very least, stimulate American's interest in its government's policies and to find their voice in a seemingly increasingly vast, anonymous political landscape.

Graphic by Kat Boehle

The serious risks of heroin

By Tavia Hanrahan
Advertisement Manager

The National Drug Intelligence Center stated last year 83 percent of all admission into the rehabilitation centers in the Chicago land area was for heroin use, which is higher than any other drug including alcohol.

According to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, 6,116.86 grams of heroin was seized state wide in 2010 with 425.5 grams seized in Joliet Metropolitan Area alone.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse stated that heroin creates a high because the opiates found in the drug attach to your brains natural opiate receptors. This creates a temporary euphoric feeling, but ultimately destroys the receptors.

The use of heroin is devastating to the human body. According to the NIDA, "Chronic users may develop collapsed veins, infection of the heart lining and valves, abscesses, and liver or kidney disease."

Overdosing on heroin can lead to hospitalization and even death.

According to the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, after a tolerance develops withdrawal symptoms are very intense and include shaky muscles, cold flashes, and vomiting. Sudden withdrawal can be fatal.

According to the ICJIA, there were 29 deaths by heroin in 2009, 26 in 2010 and 16 in the first four months of 2011 in Will and Grundy counties.

This drug can be smoked, snorted or shot straight into the vein. Shooting this drug puts one at risk to blood transferrable diseases such as HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis.

Not only can heroin cause you to have serious, sometimes fatal, health problems it can get you into serious legal trouble as well.

According to Officer Luttrell from the JJC Police Department, possession of any amount of heroin is a felony.

Class 1 felony is the most common charge for heroin possession. According to the ICJIA, a Class 1 felony can cost someone up to $100,000 and up to 30 years of their life in prison. Possession of heroin can also be a Class X felony, which can cause someone to be incarcerated for up to 60 years.

ICJIA records show that there were 31 arrests for heroin possession in the Joliet Metropolitan area last year with 20 of them were Class 1 felonies and 6 were Class X.

If you or someone you know is struggling with a heroin seek help before it is too late. You can call the Sober Forever helpline at 1-888-424-2626. You can also visit heroinrehabs.org to find a rehabilitation center for you.

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Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives

New activity on campus

Comedy club looks for new members

By Isom Jacobs
Staff Writer

Joliet Junior College English Professor Marc Kaufman has recently created a club to develop comedic skills of students. Comedy is a form of creative writing and ideas are usually written down as they come to the mind – these are called a premise.

A premise is not yet funny, but being in the JJC Comedy Club will help rework the premise to make that into a funny joke. "If you have a joke that can make people think differently, it can be very powerful," said Kaufman.

The bases of comedic jokes are based on what is hard, dumb, scary and weird. These types of jokes proved a guideline for making good jokes and other ideas from a book entitled "The Comedy Bible" by Judy Carter.

There will also be a competition that the club will enter called the Rooftop National College Comedy Competition presented by TBS. This is a nationwide talent search to find the funniest stand-up comedians around the country.

Kaufman is looking for eight students who are willing to compete. However, if students do not wish to compete it is fine to just help all members become better comedians.

Seeing other comedians has the possibility of inspiration, The JJC Comedy Club will be looking to spread some inspiration to their members that are similar to Kaufman's experience with attending comedy events while he was attending New York University. The notable comedians he witnessed were Louis C.K., Greg Giraldo and Darrell Hammond, among others in clubs such as Comedy Cellar and Comix.

Another upcoming treat for the members of the club will be "The Book of Mormon," a new Broadway musical by Trey Parker and Matt Stone who created the hit TV show "South Park." The goal is to get the tickets at a discounted price. This will make the fundraisers very practical in the near future.

"It's a hilarious show so I think it'd be great for students to be able to see at a discount," said Kaufman. Kaufman has a clear but flexible plan for The JJC Comedy Club in the future, some of which is still being built to fit the next wave of incoming members.

The meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month in the JJC Main Campus in room K-2002 from 2:30-4:00 pm. You can follow The JJC Comedy Club @JJCComedyClub on Twitter or "like" the Facebook page by searching for Joliet Junior College Comedy Club.

Holiday Happenings at the JJC Bookstore

Visit the JJC Bookstore on **Thursday, Nov. 17** for a one-day only special holiday event! Everyone is invited to come for free food samplings, plus great savings on great holiday gift ideas.

- *Clothing and bookbags: 25% off*
- *Vera Bradley products: 25% off*
- *Holiday gift items and décor: 20% off*
- *Christmas trees: 10% off*
- *Dips, soups and jellies: 20% off*

Food and dip sampling will be available from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Visit the bookstore in its new location on the first floor of the Campus Center!

For more information, visit jjc.edu/bookstore or call (815) 280-6767.

Fine Arts Theater

JJC presents 'Dark of the Moon'

BY ASHLEY MURRAY
Staff Writer

The Joliet Junior College Fine Arts Theater will present the second play in the 2011-12 theater season with Dark of the Moon by Howard Richardson and William Bemey.

"We have a huge cast this year," said Director Nicki Blowers. "We have experienced and inexperienced cast members."

This play is based on the haunting folk ballad Barbara Allen. The setting takes place in the '30s in a little valley set in the Smokey Mountains.

The play is centered on a strange witch boy named John who falls in love with the beautiful Barbara Allen. He is given human form to woo and marry her on the condition that she remains true to him.

"This play is mostly about romance," said Antonio Perez who plays a witch.

Is Barbara Allen's love for John enough to keep her true to him and thus save him from losing his human form?

"I'm hoping that the audience will grasp intolerance and injustice," said Blowers. "The world sees injustice and intolerance every day regarding different beliefs and religions."

The play will be showing Nov. 17-19 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 19 and 20 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are available for purchase at the box office in k building or by calling 815-280-2200. Ticket prices are $8 for general public and $5 for senior citizens and $3 for students.

Murder Mystery

Swanson's new book lives up to expectations

BY KELSI BERTHEAUME
Staff Writer

Murder of a Creped Suzette is written by New York Times bestselling author Denise Swanson. I have read all of her books and her books are great mysteries to read being as they keep moving at a good pace and keep the readers interested.

Swanson grew up in Illinois and those who are natives here may be able to tell that by her writing. Murder of a Creped Suzette is the fourteenth installment of the Scumble River Mystery series.

After reading the summary in the back of the book, I thought it was a truck-stop book, which was far from the truth, but that is what makes the book neat.

It turns out a rising star, Suzette Neal, has asked for the main character, Skye Denisoh, for help in solving a case of Suzette's mother's death. After thinking about it, Skye goes to see Suzette to agree to help and see if Suzette's mother was actually murdered and that it was not an accident as it was ruled 27 years ago.

Suzette was only little when her mother died, but why did she wait until she got back to her home town to ask Skye for help – and why Skye? More questions arose as time went on and were answered eventually toward the end of the book.

As the title implies, there is a death and it is Suzette. The question is, is it linked to her mother's death or is different entirely?

Many things have happened, but a lot is still to tell. Swanson is a great writer and I recommend any books she writes to anyone who likes mysteries.

Her books are an easy read for all who like mysteries, except younger kids, because some chapters in the book do get a little graphic.

However, it is a murder mystery and many adults I know also recommend it and I personally do also.

Mystery entices reader

'Twisted Thread' is considered a must read

BY ASHLEY MURRAY
Staff Writer

The Twisted Thread is like a soap opera. There are four different viewpoints to this book with each character having a different perspective on how things happen.

The four main characters are Madeline, the English teacher who seems to do more sleuthing than the police officers; Fred, the art teacher who wants more art and a little less teaching; Jim, the middle aged and divorced maintenance man who looks after his aging mother and Matt, the police officer and former Armitage Academy student who is forced to revisit unpleasant memories when someone turns up dead.

This is a mystery novel that will keep you in suspense until the end. The story takes place at a private boarding school in Armitage. A young student mother by the name of Claire Harkness is found dead in her dorm with the baby missing.

Some of Claire's classmates know something that they refuse to tell anyone, even their own trusted advisor Mrs. Christopher. Inspector Matt and his partner Vernon come to Armitage Academy to investigate only to find out that everyone in the school is guilty.

They also learn about the Reign of Terror only to find out that Claire was their leader. There is also a love triangle going on with Madeline in the middle of it.

Inspector Matt and the art teacher, Fred Nyler, both have feelings for Madeline, an English intern at Armitage Academy.

There are definitely some changes happening at the academy that is starting to affect everyone ever since the tragic incident. The Reign of Terror starts to slip and pretty soon starts sending threats to Madeline because they confided in her.

Madeline hears some disturbing news from Fred that he's leaving Armitage Academy to follow his dreams of becoming an artist. The school also learns that Porter, the head of Armitage Academy, is also leaving but for reasons that only he knows.

Toward the end of the book all secrets are revealed and justice is served.

Author Charlotte Bacon graduated from Harvard University and received a master of fine arts degree. She lives in Maine with her husband and three children.

If you are a big fan of mystery suspense then this book is for you. I give this book 8/10 stars – it was good, but took too much time to read.

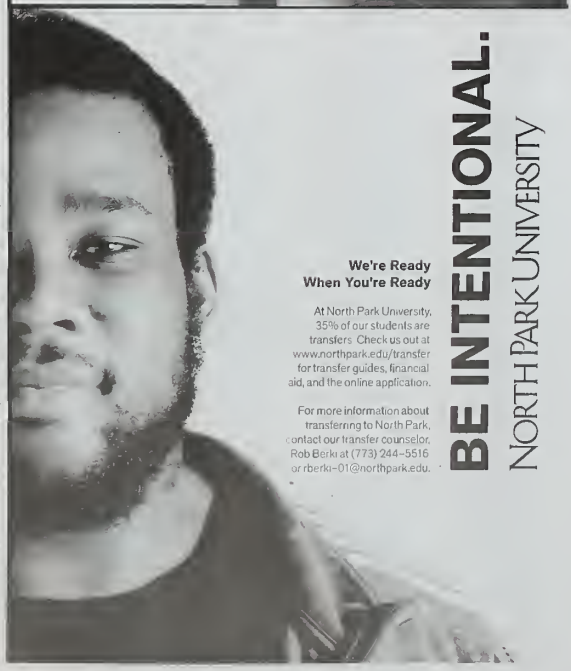

Photo courtesy of Coldplay

Coldplay kicks it up a notch

BY GINA CAPONIGRO
Staff Writer

Coldplay released their fifth studio album, Mylo Xyloto, on Oct. 24, to mixed reviews.

Although the band is known for their laid-back, easy listening tunes like "Green Eyes" and "Yellow," Mylo Xyloto brought up the tempo with faster paced songs such as "Hurts Like Heaven," which is one of my immediate favorites off the album.

This peppy track made me think of the scene from the 1985 cult comedy, The Breakfast Club, when everyone starts dancing in the library. This is due in part to Jonny Buckland's guitar solo halfway through the song.

Lyrically, my favorite song was "Us Against the World." Lead singer Chris Martin transformed the song into a lullaby with these lyrics, "And if we could float away, fly up to the surface and just start again, and lift off before trouble just erodes us in the rain." It's a beautiful song that's slow but not sleepy and it puts me at ease.

There were three songs that were less than a minute long that only served the purpose as a transition to the next song. "Mylo Xyloto," lasting 42 seconds, made for a great opening to "Hurts Like Heaven." "M.M.I.X.," approximately 48 seconds in length, transitioned into "Every Teardrop is a Waterfall." Lastly, "A Hopeful Transmission" lasted a mere 33 seconds and became the opening to "Don't Let it Break Your Heart."

I had first recognized "Every Teardrop is a Waterfall," the album's featured single, on the radio and instantly fell in love with the tune. My favorite part of the song was Will Champion's drumming through the progression of the tune. The majority of the drumming sounded like a heartbeat and the very end of the song consisted of a simple yet effective drum solo.

One concern I had with the album was with the song "Charlie Brown." I didn't quite understand how the song title and the actual song gelled together. The only part of the song that resembled anything close to Charlie Brown was the very end of the song where you can faintly hear the Christmas song from Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown. Other than that part, the song was a letdown.

"Princess of China" featuring Rihanna was an interesting blend of rock and hip hop. I normally do not care for Rihanna's music and was afraid that she would tarnish Coldplay's musical reputation. But after hearing how well Rihanna's and Martin's voices harmonized together, I began to eat my words.

Overall, Mylo Xyloto is a step up from Coldplay's previous albums. I appreciated their integration of different musical genres such as hip-hop, techno and psychedelic. This thought provoking album would make for a great holiday gift to anyone who loves Coldplay.

The British indie rock band consists of Martin on vocals, Jonny Buckland on guitar, Guy Berryman on bass and Champion on drums. They are currently on a European tour promoting Mylo Xyloto.

'Wilco' stays true to roots with new album

BY HUNTER THOMAS
Staff Writer

Chicago alternative-rockers, Wilco, are in the middle of a world tour in support of their eighth studio venture, The Whole Love, which was released on Sept. 27. The album celebrates the debut release of Wilco's new record label, dBpm Records.

Since forming in 1994, Wilco have evolved to become one of the staples of the American music scene. From their alternative country beginnings with A.M., 1996's Being There, and the release of the more electrically dubbed Summerteeth in 1999, Wilco have progressed unlike many mainstream band's in the country.

The band found widespread commercial success in 2002's electronically experimental Yankee Hotel Foxtrot, a drastic change in style from the band's previously acoustic heavy country albums. The band continued its progression to eerily delightful A.Ghost is Born in 2004, which saw the band receive their first Grammy award for Best Alternative Music Album.

2007 saw the addition of new permanent personnel in the critically acclaimed, guitar heavy Sky Blue Sky, which debuted at number four on the Billboard Top 100 and 2009 garnered Wilco with another Grammy award with the release of Wilco(The Album).

The Whole Love continues to see Wilco evolve their ever changing sound, an envelope many artists are afraid to push for fear of alienation from core listeners. The new album incorporates many synth-laden tracks as seen in the opening song, "Art of Almost."

The band also stays true to its roots, retaining its country twang in tracks like "Black Moon," "Open Mind," "Capitol City" and "Rising Red Lung."

It seems as if Wilco has found a smooth blend of electronic ambiance and country rock seen in songs like the title track "Whole Love," punctuated with its signature progressive jamming in tunes like "I Might," "Dawned on Me," and "Born Alone."

Wilco continues to keep its current fans happy while appealing to potential listeners with an ever changing, diverse style of alternative rock.

While they remain a staple in the music scene, refusing to settle for anything less than excellence, they continue performing for people across the world, picking up more fans as they go along.

The band is set to perform in Chicago with five sold out shows in five different venues this December. For those who won't be able to score tickets to these shows, fear not, as Wilco has always treated their home well, and will undoubtedly be back for more.

Photo courtesy of Wilco

I had a great time at East-West University. Class size is small, so students get attention from the talented and creative professors. East-West University is diverse, international and multicultural, which allowed me to learn and love other cultures.

I always search for intellectual challenge and stimulation, and East-West succeeded in delivering the intellectual challenge I needed. My student experiences at East-West University are some of my fondest memories.

Amra Bukalo-Mehmedovic
Class of 2007

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Stiller and Murphy make great combo

BY RYAN MILLER
Production Manager

The story of Tower Heist is a commonly told one about how the evil, scumbag millionaire rips off the live-day-to-day working-class citizens that entrusted bim with their money. This one stars Ben Stiller, Matthew Broderick, Casey Affleck and in an incredible comeback, Eddie Murphy.

Tbis heist comedy tells the story about how the staff at a prestige New York City apartment building, promptly named The Tower, is ripped off by one of the richest residents of the complex, Arthur Shaw (played by Alan Alda). What happens is that the manager of the tower, Josh Kovacs (played by Stiller), entrusted Shaw with all the employees pensions to manage.

However, after Shaw is accused of embezzling money and his business is exposed as a scam, all the employees' retirement savings are lost. Now, Shaw is placed under house arrest in his penthouse apartment and is guarded by federal agents 24/7, which includes special agent Claire Denham (played by Tea Leoni).

As the story progresses, Josh learns that Shaw has a safety net of $20 million in cash.

Learning this, he comes up with a plan to rob Shaw's apartment in order to pay back his co-workers for the mistake that he made.

In order to do this, however, he assembles a team that includes his brother-in-law Charlie (Affleck), an out-of-work bank appraiser (Broderick), an ex-convict (Murphy) and an elevator operator (Enrique Dev'Reaux).

Overall, I enjoyed this movie for multiple reasons. It had a very well organized group of cast members who all played their parts impressively. However, the one actor's performance that I was eestatic to see sbine very brightly was the great Eddie Murphy.

It seems as if he has stepped back into the adult comedy world once again, despite his last couple years of being in a majority of cbildren movies. It pleases me a lot to see Murphy coming back to more mature comedies. Although it is not his most glorious performance ever, it is a start to seeing the old Eddie Murphy resurface as a great comedian.

As I stated previously, the storyline of the movie is a basic "Robin Hood" variant. Although it is interesting to watch, the beginning is a bit dry, but is replenished as the film continues. The comedy in the movie is very witty and contains some slapstick comedy in it.

Tower Heist is an entertaining feature that has a star studded cast that performs in perfect unison. It may not be the best comedy of the year for me, but is definitely on the list.

The only problem I really saw with this movie is the ending as well as some very minor scenes that occurred towards the end.

Despite these few flaws, I recommend seeing this movie if you are looking for a few good laughs to experience. My rating is 3.5/5 stars.

Ben Stiller and Eddie Murphy star in the new comedy "Tower Heist." *Photo courtesy of Universal Studios*

'Jack and Jill' disappoints viewer

BY JORDAN BISHOP
Staff Writer

Adam Sandler is obviously known for his comedic roles in major production films. He is also known for starring in numerous comedy films that are epic failures.

Sandler's latest film Jack and Jill will easily be on his top five biggest bust list.

The film has a very generic, basic and fundamental synopsis. Sandler plays the role of Jack and his twin sister Jill is, wait for it, wait for it... also played by Sandler.

Big shocker there, the delightfully Jacky wig and the overly exeessive makeup and the forged female voice were done so excellently that I did not even laugh.

Photo courtesy of Happy Madison Productions

Adam Sandler stars as both Jack and Jill in this Happy Madison Production.

Jill comes to visit with twin brother Jack for a few days in LA, which turns into more than a few days.

The movie generates the same old-fashioned jokes that you can see in all of Sandler's past films.

Luckily Sandler knows a few people around Hollywood, because he was able to scoop up a few big named actors to make a few cameos throughout the film.

David Spade made a brief appearance as a girl straight out of Jersey. Johnny Depp, I could not believe it either, sat courtside at a Lakers game during the film.

Katie Holmes plays Jack's wife and fortunate enough for her she gets to go home to Tom Cruise at the end of the night instead of Jack.

Al Paccino was even spawned into the film multiple times. If the film's title was Al Paccino: starring Jack and Jill, I think we may have been dealing with the next Twilight or Harry Potter movie with people waiting in line at midnight to see the luminary megastar blast the big screens again.

Instead, people were waiting in line to push their way through the exit doors due to the revolting images on the screen that is unfortunately called a major motion picture.

I cannot sit here and bash the actor completely because he has had multiple good films that will always be watched years and years from now.

A few memorable ones would be Billy Madison, Happy Gilmore, Mr. Deeds, The Wedding Singer and Big Daddy.

Overall, the movie lacked in quality, diversity and wittiness. If you do wish to squander $8 or $9 to see this film, then I apologize in advance.

All theaters should have a sign on the doors before entering this show that say "Danger: Laugh-Free Comedy Ahead" and then I would be telling you to enter at your own risk for losing 90 minutes of your life that you will never get back.

Look for our next issue on Dec. 7!

Lady Wolves remain positive despite loss in semi-finals

BY KAT BOEHLE
Editor-in-Chief

The volleyball team's season came to an end on Oct. 29 against Madison College at the semi-finals in the regional tournament at Harper College as the Lady Wolves fell to Madison, 1-3. Madison later lost to Rock Valley Community College who then went on to the national tournament.

"That day they lost their confidenee in what they know how to do," said Head Coach LaKisha Cameron. "We couldn't get everyone clicking at the same time."

The Lady Wolves had previously dominated Maleolm X College on Oct. 26, 3-0, with final scores 25-4, 25-7 and 25-3.

However, facing elimination, the Lady Wolves were not able to ovcreome the pressure of the moment when a win would have given them a chance to play in the Region IV Championship. A win in the championship would have earned them a berth to the national tournament in Rochester, Minn.

"You cannot recreate that situation," said Cameron. "There's pressure throughout the season, but nothing compared to the pressure that that could be your last game – it's a different kind of pressure."

Cameron said that in the future she will have to work on trust between the players before the toumament.

"They seemed to lose faith in each other that day," Cameron said. "It was the pressure that threw them off that game."

The Lady Wolves ended their season with a record of 31-11 and 11-1 in conference play, with the loss against Madison being their only conference loss.

Despite not being able to make it to nationals, Cameron is still very satisfied with this year's season.

"They accomplished a lot of great things this. year that JJC volleyball hasn't done in a while," Cameron said.

Although the Lady Wolves did not make it to the national competition, they still earned many titles including 1st Place in conference, 2nd Place in regional and 3rd Place nationally.

Cameron was also voted Conference Coach of the Year.

Right-side hitter Laura Wills and outside-hitters Mallory Frankovich and Alexis Nelson were also all named All-Conference Players. Nelson and Frankovich were also given All-Region Players awards, an even higher honor.

Because of all of this, Cameron said that she is getting even more college scouts contacting her about recruiting the graduating sophomores.

"Next year's team will have a lot of pressure of living up to that," Cameron said with a smile and chuckle.

Lady Wolves celebrate after win against Triton College. *Photo by Kat Boehle*

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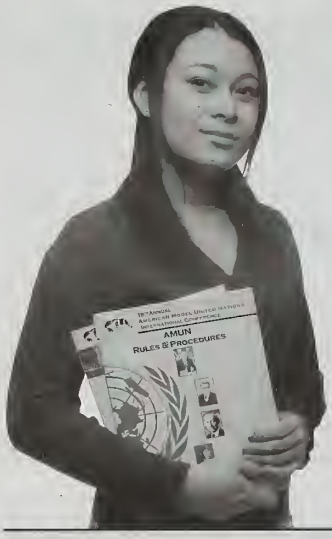

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Soccer

Lady Wolves' season ends with loss to Harper

The JJC women's soccer team endcd its season in disappointing fashion as the Lady Wolves dropped a 4-1 decision to Harper Community College in the Region IV semi-finals on Oct. 25. The game was held at Harper.

Sophomore Caytin Lewin scored JJC's lone goal. Goalkeeper Kara Donegan recorded 5 saves in the contest. The Lady Wolves finish their season with a 6-8 overall record and a 2-3 N4C conference record.

The playoff game marked the rubber match between JJC and Harper. On Sept. 14, the Lady Wolves got the best of Harper with a 3-2 win in overtime at Harper. Harper's women returned the favor on Oct. 5 when they defeated the Lady Wolves, 4-0, at JJC.

Following that Oct. 5 loss to Harper, the Lady Wolves ran off victories against Triton, 7-1 on Oct. 7, and South Suburban, 2-1 on Oct. 17, before running into a hot Harper team in the conference semi-finals.

Photo by Kat Boehle

Midfielder Christina Mireles, right, tries to keep the ball away from College of Lake County defender.

Men finish 8-9

Wolves end season with playoff loss

BY ERIC MONAHAN

Sports Editor

The Joliet Junior College men's soccer season came to an end against Triton Community College on Wednesday, Oct. 26. The Wolves however did manage to muster a victory in a rubber match against Waubonsee CC on Saturday, Oct. 22.

The Wolves' victory was savored because Waubonsee had defeated the Wolves earlier this season on Friday, Sept. 14, with the score of 2-1.

However, this game held more than just a victory; it offered the opportunity to advance into the playoff finals. During the semifinal match, the men's soccer team blanked the Waubonsee offensive attack in the Region IV semi-final by a score of 2-0.

Ivan Rodriguez and Miguel Abarca led the Wolves offensive attack with one goal each with Luis Lizcano earning an assist. Goalkeeper Rich Wyskiel had five saves in the shutout.

JJC moved to 8-8 overall and took on Triton College in the Region IV Division III Championship on Wednesday, Oct. 26. Even with the Wolves victory, Triton had proven to be a tough opponent.

The Wolves had earlier played Triton twice with both results losses on Wednesday, Sept. 7, with a score of 2-1 and again on Friday, Oct. 7, with that resulting in a 1-0 game score.

The playoffs throw out the records and just let the play go on, regardless of stature into the regular season. This must have not been a factor for the Wolves dropping a third straight game to Triton.

Despite going to a neutral site for the game the result was the same. The Wolves would be shut out with the game ending in a 2-0 score. The Wolves season ended with an overall record of 8-9.

Looking forward to next year, the season will start with only four sophomores leaving the program and up to 16 players returning for another season.

Although the Wolves did not win the region championship, this did not leave them without honors.

This year three players from JJC made the All-Region IV team including freshman player Gustavo Moreno, freshman player Oved Rodriguez and sophomore player Ivan Del Toro.

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Basketball

Lady Wolves confident despite rough start

BY ISOM JACOBS
Staff Writer

The women's basketball team has its eyes set for another year towards another appearance in the national tournament with a stable group of returning players.

"The returning players have come back very eager to return to the National tournament," said Head Coach Shaun Sanderson. "They are confident and have a better grasp on college life and playing basketball at the collegiate level. They have been forced to be leaders to the incoming freshman and have done a great job so far."

This year is the first year players will not be pressured to perform. The amount of returning sophomores will help develop first year players.

Brianna Marble, Alana Warren and Tabitha are expected to make an immediate impact. The loss to Prairie State College 50-56 can be credited to the making 5 of 19 free-throws and 30 turnovers.

"We were lucky to lose by six with opportunities to win down the stretch," said Sanderson. "We must value the basketball and limit our turnovers, but we have to get better at the free-throw line and transition defense."

The transfers, Britney Smith from Clark-Atlanta, Jameka Evans from Butler University and DeAnna Evans from Concordia will be used right away in the game plan.

"They all have and will make a huge contribution to this year's team," said Sanderson.

Smith's speed in particular has stood out to Sanderson.

"Britney is the fastest player I have ever coached – her defense is second to none," said Sanderson. "Once Britney learns to change speeds and be more deceptive, she will be dangerous. Smith should be able to shut down the best opposition defender."

Despite the Lady Wolves 0-4 start, Sanderson is very confident in his team.

"We have an outstanding group of young ladies that want to get better each and every day," said Sanderson. "Because of that, it makes my job a little easier."

The next home game will be Saturday Dec. 10 vs. Parkland College at 1 p.m. after a four game road trip after Nov. 15 after yesterday's home game vs. Kennedy-King College.

Men look to build on past success

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Sports Editor

Two years ago, the Joliet Junior College men's basketball team earned the title of National Champions and last year they earned 7th place at the national championship.

This year looks to be off to a good start as well. The Wolves have gotten off to an undefeated start currently standing at 2-0, and its next game came at a tournament at Allehgeny.

Currently, the Wolves are carrying 10 guards, two forwards and one center. The two forwards for the Wolves stand at 6 feet 4 inches and the tallest man on the team at 6 feet 9 inches. The Wolves' center stands at 6 feet 5 inches.

The guards for the Wolves vary in height from 5 feet 9 inches to 6 feet 3 inches. Head Coach Joe Kuhn has been part of the Wolves for 15 years now. He runs and drills his players on fundamental basketball to eliminate turnovers and capitalize on opportunities in the game.

The Wolves have responded to his style of coaching winning its first two regular season games against Olivet Nazarene on Thursday. Nov. 3, and against Prairie State on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

In the first home game on Thursday. Nov. 3, against Olivet Nazarene University JV, the Wolves proved victorious with a score of 89-70 in their season opener. Cory Proctor, the Triton Community College transfer, led the Wolves with offensively 21 points followed by Brock Duke who finished with a total of 18 points.

Forward Jon Bartlett finished with 13 points and nine rebounds, while Shazzon Mumphrey finished with 11 points. "Our team defense was great in the first half," Head Coach Joe Kuhn said." We can take many positives from tonight's game and learn from some situations as well."

With the team winning its first game, it fed off the great defense and positive influences against Prairie State on Tuesday, Nov. 8, where they won 78-52.

The Wolves never trailed from the opening tip. Key offensive for the Wolves were Antione Cox and Mumphrey seoring 14 points each. The Wolves next home game is on Tues. Nov. 29 against Robert Morris University JV at 7 p.m.

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Quarterback Christopher Rokita prepares to throw downfield. *Photo by Kat Boehle*

Football ends with forfeit

By Carlos Williamson
Sports Editor

On Saturday, Oct. 29, Joliet Junior College did not play Midwest Football Conference opponent Harper College. A week prior to the Wolves' last regular season game a physical altercation led to a shortened season for the Wolves.

On Saturday, Oct. 22, the Wolves played MFC rival College of Dupage. During the game an unknown assailant started a fight between both teams. Although no one from either team was injured or arrested, 39 players were suspended from JJC and 42 from COD.

The Wolves were forced to forfeit the last game of the season and lost their chance of being bowl eligible if they defeated Harper College.

"It was embarrassing," said Head Coach Jeremy Richardson. "It was the worst moment I've felt as a head coach."

During the fight, Richardson's initial reaction was to protect his players by grabbing and pulling them away from the brawl. According to Richardson, both teams were at fault.

"It was just trash talking gone overboard," said Richardson.

He believes both teams were affected equally by the outcome and plans on using this game as a reminder to future teams he coaches.

"We are playing football not WWE Wrestling," said Richardson.

According to JJC Athletic Director Wayne King, there will be reevaluations within the MFC along with new mandates and guidelines in order to prevent similar altercations.

"It's an unfortunate situation," said King. "We haven't had anything like this in a long time – maybe since the 90s."

Richardson does not believe the outcome of the altercation was a tragedy because no one was seriously hurt. However, he is disappointed that a season was lost.

Richardson is hoping to overcome defeat by learning from this experience.

Cross country places 1st at regional meet

Women's team makes JJC history with 10th place at nationals

By Kat Boehle
Editor-in-Chief

The Joliet Junior College women's cross country team made college history when it placed first in the regional tournament on Oct. 29 and placed 10th at the national tournament on Nov. 5. These are accomplishments the team had not previously achieved in its four seasons of existence.

At the NJCAA Region IV Division III tournament, JJC had four team members earn All-Region honors for finishing in the top five places.

This included freshman runner Claudia Davila, who won first place by 59 seconds with a time of 20:32. Because of this, Davila was named Runner of the Year for the region.

She was followed by sophomore Sabrina Larson, freshman Emily Diaz, freshman Stefanie Kosinski and freshman Elexis Akins. Sophomore Aseaul Hamoudeh was unable to finish due to an ankle injury.

The team's success also helped Head Coach Rich McCarthy be named Coach of the Year for the region as well.

After winning the regional tournament, this qualified the team to go to the national meet in Westfield, Mass. where 15 other teams were to compete with them.

However, due to severe weather damaging the original course, the race had to move to Holyoke Community College in Holyoke, Mass. and was changed from a cross country course to a 5 kilometer road race.

Despite the change, McCarthy said all five team members ran their personal best running times for the season with Diaz and Akins beating their personal bests by a full two minutes.

Davila finished 10th overall of the 108 runners with a time of 19:58. Because of this she received 2nd Team All-American Honors.

"She was 12th with a half mile and big climb to go and I told her she needed to pass two girls to be an all-American," McCarthy said. "She made it happen."

JJC placed 10th overall as a team with a final score of 261 points. Cross country points are awarded according to a runner's finishing spot, with first place earning one point, second place earning two points, and so on.

"A very exciting and gutsy performance," McCarthy said, "especially when you take into account that it is very difficult for us to simulate the hilly conditions of the east coast."

According to McCarthy, 95 percent of all teams in Division III are located on the hilly east coast and the championships are always on very hilly courses with long climbs that the JJC area does not have.

McCarthy noted how proud he is of his team this year. He said that Diaz has been fighting an injury the whole season but has pulled through it when it really counted.

He also said that Kosinski and Akins continued to get faster as the season went on.

"This was a great group of young women and we are hoping to build on this success for next season and continue to strengthen our program," McCarthy said.

Male Athlete of the Issue

By Eric Monahan

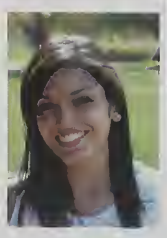
Cory Proctor has helped the JJC men's basketball team to an undefeated 2-0 start for the 2011-12 season. In the home opener on Nov. 3, against Olivet Nazarene University JV, Proctor led all scorers with 21 points and was an offensive leader against Prairie State College on Nov. 8, finishing with 10 points. Proctor and the Wolves are currently ranked 3rd in the NJCAA Division III pre-season national poll.

Cory Proctor

Female Athlete of the Issue

By Eric Monahan

Freshman cross-country runner Claudia Davila recently finished 10th at the NJCAA Division III National Championship race in Westfield, MA. Her 19:58 time earned her a nomination to the Second Team NJCAA Division III All-American honors. She is the first All-American in the history of the JJC Cross Country program. Davila finished 1st at the Region IV Division III Championship race on Oct. 29, with a time of 20:33 where she was named Region IV Division III Runner of the Year. Earlier this season Davilla finished a race ahead of a Harper Community College runner by 59 seconds.



Claudia Davila

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Photos courtesy of JJC website

President finalists from left: Dr. Patricia "Kay" Adkins, Dr. Debra Daniels and Dr. Maureen Murphy.

Meet the candidates

College presidential search coming to a close

BY KAT BOEHLE
Editor-in-Chief

Since Joliet Junior College's president Dr. Gena Proulx died on Aug. 12, a 14-member search committee has been conducting a nationwide search for JJC's new president.

On Nov. 23, JJC's board of trustees announced that the search had been narrowed to three finalists from dozens of applicants across the country. These finalists include Dr. Patricia Adkins, president of Yuba College in California; Dr. Debra Daniels, president of San Bernardino Valley College in California; and Dr. Maureen Murphy, president of San Jacinto College South in Texas.

The board also announced that there would be public forums held Nov. 30 through Dec. 2 so that the JJC community could ask questions of each of the finalists.

The first forum was held for Daniels on Nov. 30. To open the forum, Natalie Maggitt of JJC's Human Resources Department discussed Daniels' background and experience.

Maggitt said that Daniels has guided her campus to accreditation through 2014 and also facilitated a $250 million bond-funded facility modernization and construction campaign. She has also established strategic planning and budget processes that have sustained the college through the current economic times.

Daniels has also introduced an award-winning program called the Valley Bound Commitment that covers 100 percent of the costs for a qualified student's first year of college to aid students who otherwise would not have been able to afford school.

In responding to questions, Daniels said she would make getting to know students a priority. She said this would include attending student events and activities and club meetings.

"I think as a new president that it's important to jump right in and get to know the people that you work with," Daniels said. "You need to get to know me and know that I'm consistent, someone you can trust, this is what I think – and I want to know all of that about you, too."

When asked about what she would do to increase graduation rate, Daniels pointed out that not all students who attend JJC have a goal to graduate.

"Their goal might be to take two classes. We have to be knowledgeable of that," Daniels said. "We need to make sure that they finish their goal, not ours."

She also said that she would

See SEARCH on page 3

College hosts 3rd drag show

BY TAVIA HANRAHAN
Advertisement Manager

The feathers, glitter, high heels and pop music filled the old cafeteria in J-building. This could only mean one thing: the queens were back!

On Dec. 1, the World AIDS Day Drag Show came back to JJC. Sponsored by Office of Student Activities, Holistic Wellness, Student Government, Student United Way and GLOW, it was a creative and fun way to raise money for local programs that help people who are HIV positive or suffering with AIDS.

Agencies such as Agape Missions were passing out pamphlets regarding safe sex and HIV/AIDS information, condoms and red ribbons.

As they did in the past two years Amy Sims, the coordinator of holistic wellness and Tim Kugleman, president of JJC's Student Government, hosted the event. They had the crowd laughing with their laidback comedic banter with each other and Sims posting pictures to Facebook during the show.

The show hit a slight glitch in the beginning as Sims jokingly stated they were "running on queen time," but the show did not disappoint.

Some of the queens returning from previous years included Sassy Trade, Cee Cee La Rouge and Phoenix Envy. New faces included Mia Sangria, Elysse Giovanni and Aleyna Couture.

See DRAG on page 3

JJC drains lake to further project

BY ISOM JACOBS
Staff Writer

The JJC Lake has been partially drained to aid in the lake rehabilitation to restore the lake and open the water ways.

A project that started in 2006, it will see some more plans of actions to further add progress to the reduction of the number of plants in the lake, prevent storm runoff, and add native plants along the lake.

A benefit to draining the lake is that once the cold of the winter sets in it will help get rid of the algae-like plant life on the banks of the lake.

The minor setback would be that there will be a loss of fish that need deep water to live in, but when the lake is refilled, it will be restocked with more fish, according to biology professor Andy Neill.

The types of fish that might be added would be pan fish, blue gill and small mouth bass. Along with draining the lake, there will be dredging, which is taking soil from the bottom of the lake to increase the depth and will help reduce the amount of plants chocking off the lake.

With deeper water, some plants like water lilies will have a harder time growing out of control like it has in the past. The reason for this tough growing climate is because the deeper the water, the less sunlight that penetrates it.

A deeper lake is needed because over the past 30 years the lake volume has been reduced by 20 percent, according to Neill.

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EDITORIAL

Let's do our part this holiday season

Today, Dec. 7, 2011, marks the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the moment in history that drew the United States into World War II.

In recent years, the generation that fought World War II has been rightfully called the "greatest generation." These men and women were honored in a relatively recent book by longtime NBC anchor Tom Brokaw, as well as others.

The generation that won World War II and spent more than one holiday season on the battlefield certainly has every right to be called our greatest. But during this holiday season, we also need to keep in mind all of our military personnel who are serving in dangerous places today to ensure that we can enjoy our holidays in peace.

As the war winds down in Iraq and the United States considers bringing troops home from Afghanistan, it's easy for us to forget the sacrifices being made by all of our service men and women.

At a time when our military is made up fully of volunteers, it is important for us to honor their sacrifice and consider what we can do at home to do our part for our community and our nation.

The holiday season for most of us is a time of giving and receiving gifts, which is a beautiful tradition. But this year maybe we can add some new people to our gift list. Think of those less fortunate who are struggling in these difficult times to simply feed their families and pay their rents.

There are many local organizations who help those in need, and maybe we should consider taking that extra $20 that we were going to spend on a frivolous third gift for somebody and donate it to one of these organizations.

Some of these organizations include Morningstar Mission, Salvation Army, United Way, Catholic Charities, Joliet Area Community Hospice, and Lamb's Fold Center for Women and Children.

These organizations need your support. Like our soldiers abroad, let's try to do what we can do at home for those less fortunate.

Student trustee semester report

BY KAYLA RANDOLPH-CLARK
Staff Writer

Hello fellow JJC students and community members!

I am Kayla Randolph-Clark, JJC's student representative on the Board of Trustees for the 2011-12 term.

Over the past semester, our campus has experienced a multitude of events that have made a major impact on our community for years to come.

At the beginning of this semester, we suffered a huge loss with the passing of our school's president, Dr. Gena Proulx. Proulx was a great leader, and her legacy will continue to live on at our institution – not only through the New Campus Center that now bears her name, but also through the many lives of students, staff, and faculty that she touched.

Though we still grieve for Proulx and wish the best for her family, we are fortunate that her commitment to JJC continues to flourish after *her passing.*

In August, our campus celebrated the expansion of our Automotive Service Technology Department into a new, state of the art, LEED certified building that more than doubled the previous vehicle capacity.

It was also exciting to begin the school year with our new Campus Center, which offers all student services in one location with easy access and navigation.

We look forward to the expansion of the Natural Sciences Department, the addition of a new Health Professions Building, the renovation of the Fine Arts Department (J building) and the construction of our revamped City Center Campus.

This semester has also been the beginning of fewer gripes over trying to find a parking spot in time for class on our Main Campus, thanks to the addition of over 450 parking spots!

In October, we were fortunate and honored to receive Illinois Lt. Governor Simon as a guest at our campus during her "Complete College Tour" where she visited each of Illinois' 48 community colleges.

Simon continues to promote and support *Illinois completion goal* of at least 60 percent of working adults in the year 2025 with some form of a degree or certificate from higher education.

Around the same time period, JJC also embarked on the search for our next president of JJC. I feel it must be mentioned that while we have conducted this search, Dr. Frank Zeller has done a fantastic job as our interim president ensuring that our momentum has still been able to continue in the absence of a president.

Sadly, we bring this semester to a close with a final farewell to our football program. I personally know that it was an extremely difficult decision to eliminate the program, but this action took quite a bit of consideration. The intent of the elimination is to reduce future costs and to align the athletic department more closely to the national standards set by Title IX.

I wish to thank those of you who participated in our survey regarding your opinions of the new Campus Center. There were a few comments regarding traffic, the lack of space, and wait times in the bookstore and cafeteria.

There were also comments regarding *prices,* menu options and the friendliness of staff in the cafeteria. Computer availability during peak times also seems to cause difficulties in the library. Though some areas of improvement have been identified, the consensus of the student body seems to be a very positive one.

The results of the survey have been forwarded to heads of each department listed on the survey. I'm confident that all issues presented will be addressed. If you have any additional questions about the survey, feel free to contact me.

As the spring semester quickly approaches, I am hoping to communicate with more students at JJC. It is my goal to understanding and to convey your views and opinions about the affairs of our institution.

If you wish to express anything before the new semester, do not hesitate to email me at krando87@stu.jjc.edu. I hope your fall semester was a successful one, and keep up your efforts throughout the spring!

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make sure that the programs at JJC reflect the community's needs. Although she agrees that JJC does a great job of reflecting these needs, she believes that there is always room for improvement.

The next forum on Dec. 1 was for Murphy. Maggitt said that Murphy was originally a teacher until an interim position turned into a permanent position, thus starting Murphy's career in administration. Maggitt noted that Murphy has experience in accreditation, strategic planning, implementing master plans and developing grants.

Before taking questions, Murphy noted that she is from the Midwest. "I've got to say that even though it's nippier here than down in Houston, it's really nice to be back in the Midwest where I grew up, where people talk like me," she said.

When asked why she applied for the position, Murpby said that JJC's history of being the first public community college was very appealing to her, and that she also liked the idea of living in a smaller community compared to Houston, where her current college is located.

In addition to serving as president at San Jacinto, Murphy is also a commissioner on the American Association of Community College's Commission on Diversity, Inclusion and Equity. Murphy says that in that role, she helps deal with issues that have to do with equity and inclusion with community colleges.

That commission has recently been addressing the lower success rate of minority students. She said the commission has been concentrating on the minority male initiative in particular.

The final forum was held on Dec. 2 for Adkins. A community college graduate herself, Adkins says that she loves the community college system and what it stands for, having worked at community colleges for the last 27 years.

She also says that she is very familiar with the Illinois community college system, having graduated from Shawnee Community College and also having worked at JJC's sister school, Moraine Valley Community College.

Adkins said that she has had the opportunity to work in many fields in the community college system and has grant and fundraising experience.

Adkins said that she applied for the position at JJC because she has heard of the college her whole life as it was always referred to as the "first public community college." She also said that while working at Moraine she got to know the college a little bit.

When asked what she would do in her first 60 days at JJC, Adkins immediately responded that she would try to get to know all of the faculty, staff and students.

"A plan is something that I'd have to work on when I come here," Adkins said. "I won't come in here with a preeise plan to execute."

When asked about her experienee with adversity, Adkins said she created a director of multicultural student affairs while working at Columbus State Community College and she also made a diversity plan in her first six months of working at Yuba College.

In terms of president and student relationship, Adkins said that she thinks this is a very important part of the position.

"In order to have a true open-door policy, they have to see you out and about," Adkins said. "You have to be approachable."

At each of these forums, attendees were given forms to provide feedback about the strengths and weaknesses of each finalist.

According to Kelly Rohder, director of communications and external relations, these forms were put in an envelope and delivered to the board of trustees, where they will he read and taken into consideration before a final decision is made.

Rohder also said that after each of the forums the board of trustees took individual candidates to an interview/dinner. After the last forum on Dec. 2, the board compared and contrasted each finalist.

The candidates also met with faculty chairs and the full-time faculty union executive board while they were on campus.

Rohder will release a press release when she is alerted of the final decision and said that the internal campus community will be the first to know.

DRAG from page 1

DJ Wayne Michael J provided the music.

All of the queens gave upbeat and vibrant performances that pleased the whole crowd of all ages. The show was 17 or older, but children were welcome if accompanied by a parent.

There was a tip bucket at the end of the stage and the queens danced their hearts out to raise money for the cause.

The crowd was full of smiles and cheers as the performers danced and lip-synced to popular pop songs from modern Lady Gaga and Nicki Minaj mixes to older love ballads.

The creativity was present in every outfit and was directly related to their song choice whether they were dressing like the artist that sings the song or vibrant head dresses and extravagant costumes to set the mood of their performance.

Student Government was selling beverages and Student United Way held a 50/50 raffle to add money to the fundraiser.

The show was an overall success raising $1536 for HIV/AIDS relief in the Jolict area.

Photo by Tavia Hanrahan

Drag Queen Sassy Trade performs number at the JJC Drag Show on Dec. 1.

LAKE from page 1

To stop the runoff of soil, native plants like red buds, native oaks and woodland grasses will he added. The health of the plant life beside the lake will directly affect the health of the lake because with more roots in the ground on the lake banks, it will help stop the runoff of the fertilizers into the lake that has helped the plant life in the lake grow out of control.

Not only are fertilizers spilled into the lake, but so is animal waste, de-icing salts, pesticides and herbicides. Many of these factors choke off the oxygen in the water, which is vitally needed hy the fish that live in the lake.

Coming spring 2012, the unwanted plant life in the lake should be reduced and new erosion-stopping plants should he growing along the lake. More water will be added and fish restocked to build a more balanced ecosystem.

Student charged with criminal damage to property

BY KAT BOEHLE

Editor-in-Chief

On Friday, Dec. 2, Joliet Junior College student Montrell Morgan and his brother, James Parson, were arrested and charged with felony criminal damage to property in connection with the breaking of five windows of a student's car, according to police.

The JJC police department had gotten a call at 8:15 a.m. about two men who were destroying a car in the Centennial Commons parking lot. When officers responded to the situation, Morgan and Parson had left the scene.

According to Chief of Police Pete Comanda, Morgan was apprehended between Centennial Commons and the JJC campus. Parson was found 20 minutes later in the T-building parking lot.

Police said that Morgan had come to JJCPD the previous night to report being jumped by two men while in Centennial Commons.

Comanda said that before police could investigate the situation, Morgan and Parson decided to take matters "into their own hands" by going to the Centennial apartment of the alleged attackers to confront them about the situation.

Comanda said that when no one answered the door, Morgan and Parson took rocks and a metal pipe and broke the patio window of the apartment. They then broke five windows of one of the student's cars.

"Allow the police to resolve an investigation instead of trying to resolve it yourself," Comanda said. "Because it rarely comes out in your favor when you try to resolve it."

Comanda said that police are currently investigating why Morgan was jumped by the alleged attackers.

Morgan and Parson had a bond hearing on Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Will County Courthouse.

JJC raises cancer awareness

Relay for Life and Great American Smokeout inform students

BY MELISSA MAGNUS
Photo Editor

On Nov. 16, Joliet Junior College kicked off its sixth consecutive year in the fight against cancer.

Kelly Castaneda, the senior income development representative of Relay For Life, had a booth set up on center bridge to inform students about what Relay for Life was about. This included information on how to create a team and raise money as well as what dates to mark for the event.

The All College Relay for Life—scheduled to take place on April 14 and 15—is an overnight event held to raise money to prevent cancer, promote research, and most of all, save lives.

Teams participating in the event camp out and take turns walking or running around the track raising awareness of cancer prevention.

JJC is involved with the planning of Relay for Life and many students are encouraged to participate in the two day event. The college has raised over $40,000 for the American Cancer Society in their efforts to promote cancer awareness.

Not only was Relay for Life present, but the Will County Health Department also had a booth set up to create awareness about the dangers of cigarettes.

This was because Nov. 17 marked the 36th Annual Great American Smokeout by the American Cancer Society. This is a day where the society encourages smokers to mark the date as a day that they will dedicate to quit smoking.

JJC Holistic Wellness Coordinator Amy Sims also had a booth set up for the Great American Smokeout with a chart of what chemicals are in cigarettes as well as a wheel of facts about lung cancer and cigarettes.

To complete the event, OSA also held its monthly karaoke event and handed out popcorn to passing students.

The events that took place encouraged students to become involved with the school, become aware of cancer prevention, and to have fun in between their classes.

Photo courtesy of JJC Student Activities

JJC Holistic Wellness and Will County Health Department set up information booths.

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Police Blotter

Charged with improper lane usage

On Nov. 17, Matthew Searcy of Dolton, Ill., was arrested and charged with improper lane usage, operating an uninsured motor vehicle and driving under a suspended license.

According to police, a message had been sent out on the police radio about a car not being in its lane on Houbolt Road. When the responding officer pulled the car over, it was discovered that Searcy was driving under a suspended license and that his vehicle was uninsured.

Because of the suspended license, police said that they had Searcy's car towed.

Driving on a suspended license

On Nov. 20, Dominque T. Bell of Crest Hill was arrested and charged with driving on a suspended and revoked driver's license.

According to police, Bell had been stopped after exiting Centennial Commons and upon inspection of his car, a bag of suspected cannabis was found in his possession. The suspected cannabis was logged as evidence and his car was towed upon the discovery that Bell's license was suspended.

Police said Bell posted $150 cash for his bail.

Charged with criminal trespass

According to police, Robin L. Daniels II was arrested and charged for criminal trespass to land on Nov. 22 after he was seen entering and exiting Centennial Commons.

Police said that Daniels had been previously trespassed off Centennial property.

Charged on a warrant

Delana Hughes of Joliet was arrested and charged on Nov. 23 on charges of an in-state warrant. According to police, Hughes had visited JJCPD because she had lost her keys and was seeing if anyone had turned them in. It was then discovered that there was a warrant out for her arrest for failure to appear to court for on shoplifting charges.

Police said that Hughes was processed and released on a $3000 D-Bond and $300 was posted for the bond along with $75 for court fees.

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JJC holds lecture on antique shopping

BY DREW WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Antique: belonging to, made in, or typical of an earlier period. This is the definition from the Merriam Webster dictionary that the presenter, Fred Harris, started the lecture with.

He also spoke of a famous antique enthusiast, Ed Welch, who said that the word antique is useless. Welch said that the word could refer to something 20-years-old, 200-years-old or something that just looks old.

It depends on the person looking at the object and what they see as being old. After Harris said this, he began giving very useful tips on how to buy antiques. His first tip: buy what you like.

If you do not like it, what is the point of buying it? His next suggestion was to educate yourself. You can never know enough about what you are buying. Harris then said that you should be looking out for condition, condition, condition.

Be very aware of the condition of the item you are buying. His final tip: keep the best, sell the rest. He meant that if you have something that is in great shape, keep it. As for the other items in questionable condition, do not wait, sell them while you can. Harris then began to talk about places where one can buy antiques.

He listed a lot of different places such as websites like eBay and Ruby Lane. He talked about antique shops, resale stores, flea markets, antique shows and auctions.

Harris also spoke highly of garage sales and estate or private sales. These are all great places to find great conversation pieces or an awesome investment.

After this he talked about some popular television shows that include the sale of antiques, and the best part, finding them. He listed a few such as "Antiques Road Show," "American Pickers," "Pawn Stars" and a new one that just aired in Dec. of 2011 called "Real Deal."

Harris was very knowledgeable of the subject and included stories of himself and people he knows who made a lot of money off of antiques.

He kept everyone attentive with his stories. Harris has some of his own collection of Native American pottery and moccasins. All were genuine, Native American made items.

Japanese painter enlightens students of history

BY GINA CAPONIGRO
Staff Writer

Japanese painter Hiromi Katayama discussed the importance of Japanese traditional painting in modern society on Nov. 17 in the library, sponsored by the Department of International Education.

Katayama's lecture was one of International Education's many activities for their "Year of Japan" program. The lecture had an excellent turnout, ranging from students in various art classes to faculty and those simply wishing to learn more of the subject of Japanese painting.

The history of Japanese painting dates back over 1000 years ago, originating in China. Soon after, Japan began to develop its own style by incorporating iconic symbols that are often recognized now in modern society such as calligraphy, tea ceremonies and cherry blossoms.

Scroll painting became the favored painting style in ancient times because of a famous long story painted on a scroll and published in Japan in 1001 A.D. Other paintings depicted love stories that were very detailed and supported the poem. Samurais spent a lot of money purchasing these painting to show off their wealth.

Katayama talked about many Japanese artists, such as Matazou Kayama and Huyuko Matsui, during the presentation for their importance in modernizing Japan and reshaping Japanese traditional painting.

Katayama spoke highly of Allan West, an American painter with a Master's of Fine Arts in Japanese Traditional Painting, whose bold use of color and symbolistic Eastern nature of pine trees is an inspiration to her.

Katayama then discussed the various tools she uses in her painting. First is the paper, or mashi, that is made with a mix of organic materials that helps colors stick. Next are the brushes, which include sokumyou, made from sheep and cat hair to make soft, smooth lines. There is also sakuyou, which is made from sheep and weasel hair, and is used for short, strong lines.

Then Katayama highlighted three different mediums used for colors. First is iwaenogu, made from stones and natural materials. Second is suihi, a clay based product that can be dyed different colors or remain in its natural form. Last is gohun, which is white and made from crushed oyster shells.

Colors cannot mix in Japanese painting because of the grain size in the pigments of the colors.

The final tool Katayama uses in her painting is nikawa, glue made from boiled cow skin that is used to bind the colors together. After a brief demonstration of how to create the colors, Katayama presented her own creations and discussed each one.

Audience members were amazed with her striking colors and attention to detail seen throughout each of her paintings. Hiromi's work can be viewed on her website at www.hiromikatayama.com.

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Student Government provides voice for students

BY CARLOS WILLIAMSON
Copy Editor

For students who are not aware of what Student Government provides for Joliet Junior College, annual fundraisers, along with several other school events, would not be possible without the aid of JJC's Student Government.

Donating to charity is one of Student Government's top priorities. On Friday, Oct. 28, JJC hosted an annual event called the Student Talent Showcase, in which 22 acts were performed by students of various talents.

The event usually earns up to $2000 although this year it raised $475. The proceeds will go to Joliet Township Animal Control Center.

Student Government Adviser Pam Dilday is responsible for the organization's budget, chaperoning events and addressing conflicts within Student Government. She also oversees the entire organization.

As an adviser, Dilday wants students to benefit from student government.

"For government members, I want them to gain leadership skills through responsibilities," said Dilday. "As for students who attend JJC, I want them to realize that the government is their voice, and they fund Student Government, so if they have concerns, contact us."

What Dilday is most content with is the cultural diversity of Student Government this year. With several different ethnic backgrounds within Student Government, accommodations can be made to please the general student body.

Tim Kugelman is the president of Student Government and while his responsibilities are not as overwhelming as Dilday's, he is the spokesperson for the organization. Kugelman believes that students' opinions matter.

"I want the students' voices to be heard;" said Kugelman. "I like the fact that I'm the voice of the students. I express their point of view."

According to Kugelman, community outreach and improving campus climate (ensuring all students feel they are treated equally) are Student Government's general goals.

Although Dilday is content with the accomplishments of the organization, she believes improvements can be made.

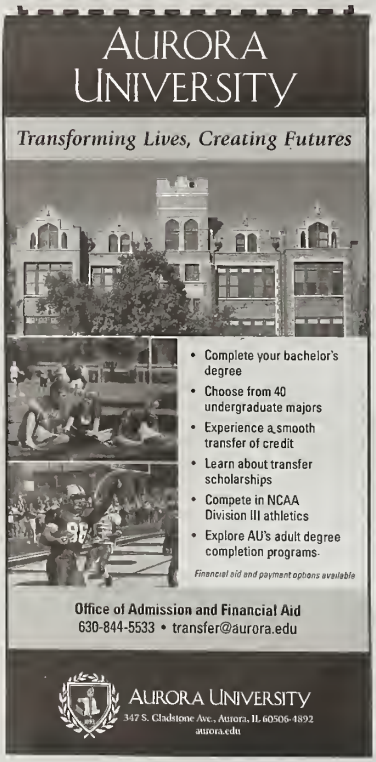
Dilday wants Student Government to build a relationship with other JJC campuses including Frankfort and Romeoville.

"I don't want any students to be overlooked even if they don't have classes at the main campus," said Dilday.

Student Government meets once a week and all members are expected to attend every Thursday at 3 p.m. including the group's president.

The process to apply for a position within Student Government is simple. Applicants must have a meeting with Dilday and a minimum GPA of 2.75 must be met for applicants pursing rep at large positions. As for executive board positions, a minimum GPA of 3.0 is required.

Kugelman and Dilday agree that any students that have concerns regarding JJC should contact Student Government in room D-1010.



College Bowl chapter looks for new members

BY JONAS LUCAS
Staff Writer

Joliet Junior College students interested in joining a club or activity should consider the school's chapter of the College Bowl, an intercollegiate competition pitting different colleges and universities against one another in a trivial pursuit.

The format of the College Bowl is very simple. There are two teams, each with up to four active players, as well as alternates. Contestants are read a question spanning a broad variety of topics and are given 30 seconds to reply correctly.

The first team to provide a correct answer is rewarded points as well as the opportunity to answer a bonus question for even more points. The school with the most points is declared the winner at the end of the allotted time.

The College Bowl originated as a precursor to many game shows as the original contests were broadcasted on radio initially and then for over a decade on network television. This inherent affiliation is reflected in the success of former College Bowl participants in modern television game shows, most notable being Jeopardy.

All time leading Jeopardy money winner, Ken Jennings, is an alumnus of the College Bowl, and writes questions for the competition. Additionally, Jeopardy applicants must disclose if they have participated in the College Bowl, a reflection of the apparent advantage of participants.

In addition to success in game shows, JJC College Bowl adviser and alumnus, Mike Hainzinger, believes participation is of great benefit to students.

"It gives you a very general knowledge of a lot of subjects and provides a jumping-off point for you to explore things that spark your interest," said Hainzinger.

Hainzinger also cites the merit participation adds to a resume as an important benefit of the club as he stated that numerous potential employers have asked about his College Bowl experience in the past.

The JJC chapter is currently looking for students to round out the roster. Although many universities have cut the program in tough economic times, the JJC team still operates under Hainzinger's stewardship.

The season of competition runs both semesters. Students who are interested can contact Hainzinger at mhainzin@jjc.edu for information.

Dec. 7 marks 70th anniversary of Pearl Harbor attack on US

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Sports Editor

On Dec. 7, (which would be December 8 in Japan) we will be remembering a solemn day. And as then President Franklin D. Roosevelt said "a date that will live in infamy." It was on this day 70 years ago that tragedy struck the United States.

It was on this day, one of the most unifying events occurred. It was on this fateful day that the Imperial Japanese Navy attacked our pacific costal fleet.

Our costal feel, aircraft carriers, sustained critical damages. The entire fleet sustained damages of around 50 percent depletion from the attack. This came from the destruction of 188 aircrafts, 2402 Americans were killed, as well as 1282 were wounded.

It was the day after the attack that the U.S. declared war against Japan. However, it was not until Dec. 11 that Germany and Italy declared war against the U.S. due to subsequent events that took place, which the U.S. reciprocated.

It was a four year battle ending with the atomic bomb and the occupy Japan strategy. The occupy Japan strategy put a strangle-hold on the Navy's ability to operate. On Aug. 6, 1945, the U.S. dropped an Atomic Bomb called "little boy" on Nagasaki. It was further enhanced by Russia, then the Soviet Union, invaded Japan on Aug. 9 shortly after midnight.

When the U.S.S.R. invaded Japan, it violated a contract between the two countries, which surprised Japan leaving them vulnerable to another attack from the United States.

This time, the U.S. launched another atomic attack on Hiroshima. This atomic bomb was nicknamed "Fat Man."

It was not until six days later that Japan formally announced its surrender to the Allied Powers on Aug. 15. The official ending to the war in Japan came on Sept. 2, 1945, aboard the U.S.S. Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

It was on this day that the war officially ended for all countries involved.

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'Dark of the Moon' conjures controversy

Despite 'uncomfortable' scene, reviewer enjoys performance by JJC theater

BY GINA CAPONIGRO
Staff Writer

The latest Joliet Junior College theater production, "Dark of the Moon", ran from Nov. 17-20 under the direction of Nicki Blowers.

This play tells the story of John (played masterfully by Kevin Patrick Duffy), a "witch boy" who falls in love with a beautiful woman named Barbara Allen (played by Faith Berry). But there are a couple of catches.

The first is that John needs to become human in order to marry Barbara, so he asks the Conjur Man (played by Chance Manzo) to turn him into a human. The second catch is that in order for John to remain human and not run the risk of turning back into a witch, Barbara Allen must remain faithful to him for a year.

What seems like an easy task proves to be more difficult than John thought. When John pleads with the Conjur Man and Woman (played by Tammy Perkins) to turn him human, John's fellow witches (Jessica Galang, Chris Walusek, Antonio Perez and Jessica Hall) constantly mock and belittle John for wanting to be human.

Also, the folks in Barbara's town disapprove of John and see him as a threat, especially Marvin Hudgens (played by Derek Miller), who has a romantic interest in Barbara. The townsfolk are so against John and Barbara's relationship that during the church's revival to "cleanse" Barbara of her "sins" they proceed to have Marvin Hudgens assault Barbara "for the good of the Lord."

This scene made me very uncomfortable for obvious reasons. Why would anyone allow someone to be assaulted? What good comes out of it? None whatsoever. As a result, Barbara is forced to betray John, which turns him back into a witch and leads to Barbara's demise.

Overall, the whole of the play was good (except for the uncomfortable assault scene). The plot was well thought out, the actors did a great job portraying their roles and I enjoyed the sets used for the play.

Half of the stage was consumed by a giant tree surrounded by rocks, which is where the witches and the Conjur Man and Woman resided. The other half of the stage symbolized the town and various places and homes within it, especially the clever use of ramps and stairs.

What I was not so enthusiastic about was the last few minutes of the play. While Barbara Allen is lying dead, John looks at her, admires her beauty, nudges her with his foot and flies away on the back of his eagle.

I found it to be confusing, out of place and a let down. One attendee I had spoken with at the Nov. 18 performance found the end to be disappointing while another attendee appreciated the small detail of the eagle's cry to be authentic.

One thing is for sure: "It ain't easy bein' human."

Photo courtesy of JJC Media

The large ensemble cast gets together for a town gathering.

Photo courtesy of JJC Media

Three witches taunt John for becoming human.

Photo courtesy of JJC Media

John and Barbra Allen discuss their romantic relationship.

Sell Back Your Fall Textbooks!

The JJC Bookstore is buying back your textbooks in December. Don't miss your chance to get some extra cash back just in time for the holiday shopping season!

Please note that except for Saturday, Dec. 10, students planning to sell back their books should come to Room A-1DD2, the auxiliary dining room across from the cafeteria.

Fall Textbook Buyback Schedule:

Main Campus

Thursday, Dec. 8	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.	A - 1DD2
Friday, Dec. 9	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.	A - 1DD2
Saturday, Dec. 10	8 a.m. – noon	Bookstore
Monday – Thursday, Dec. 12 – 15	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.	A - 1DD2
Friday, Dec. 16	8 a.m. – 2 p.m.	A - 1DD2

Romeoville Campus

Wednesday, Dec. 14	5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Not able to bring your books in on the dates listed? The JJC Bookstore buys back books every business day! Visit www.jjc.edu/bookstore for more information.

Chicago band impresses reviewer

Umphrey's McGee release sixth studio album 'Death by Stereo'

BY HUNTER THOMAS
Staff Writer

Umphrey's Mcgee is the best band you have probably never heard. The Chicago rockers have taken the music scene by storm over the last ten years, thrilling crowds across the country with their eclectic brand of improvised, progessive rock, affectionately known as improg.

Since coming onto the scene from Notre Dame in 2001, the band has become a staple of the jam-band scene, frequently playing at festivals such as Bonnaroo, All-Good Music Fest, Lollapalooza and an annual appearance at the SummerCamp Festival in Chilicothe, Ill.

The band manages to combine a vast array of musical styles into their compelling live performances, tastefully blending traditional rock, funk, blues, jazz, metal and an ever present mix of danceable electronica into their own style of progressive rock.

They recently released their sixth studio album, "Death by Stereo," in September of this year.

The album continues the tradition of displaying the collective musicians' virtuosity and passion for music, with heavy elements of funky soul bleeding through at every turn. Brendan Bayliss continues to layer skeptical positivity in his lyrics over a truly fierce bombardment of musical bliss.

The band also possesses one of my absolute favorite lead guitarists in Jake Cinninger, who combines blazing solos with soulful ambiance and a refined ear for playing exactly what any situation calls for.

"Search 4" and "Conduit" display just this – melodic solos combined with a technical prowess found only in the most brutal of power metal.

Also known for driving crowds into a dance frenzy, tracks such as "Booth Love" and "Deeper" retain the simplistic groove that keeps heads bobbing and feet from staying on the ground.

Some of the songs on the album have been part of their repertoire for many years, like the glorious journey that "The Floor" takes the listener on, culminating in a cluster of musical excellence.

Another song well known to Umphrey's aficionados is the overwhelmingly epic "Hajimemashite," which fittingly closes the record in a blaze of inspiring reflection, punctuated with a soaring solo from Cinninger.

The band lightens the mood a bit with ambient tracks like "Wellwishers" and "Dim Sun," reminding the listener what "slow" is, so they really know when the band picks it up.

Umphrey's seeks to string a broader array of listeners with more traditional rock songs such as "Miami Virtue" and "Domino Theory," both tracks opening the album.

As magnificent as their studio albums may be, to truly experience Umphrey's is to see them live. Bringing one of the most comprehensive rhythm sections together with soulful keyboardist Joel Cummings, the technically precise drumming of Kris Myers, the hilariously versatile bass of Ryan Stasik and the salt 'n pepper of percussionist Andy Farag, the band continues to entertain fans with innovative playing and an even more impressive approach to fan interaction.

Simply put, the next time you may get the chance, go see this band. Until then, enjoy their vast library of live music and well composed studio efforts.

Photo courtesy of Umphrey's McGee

From left to right: Brenden Bayliss, Joel Cummins, Jake Cinninger, Andy Farag, Ryan Stasik and Kris Meyers pose for their new album.

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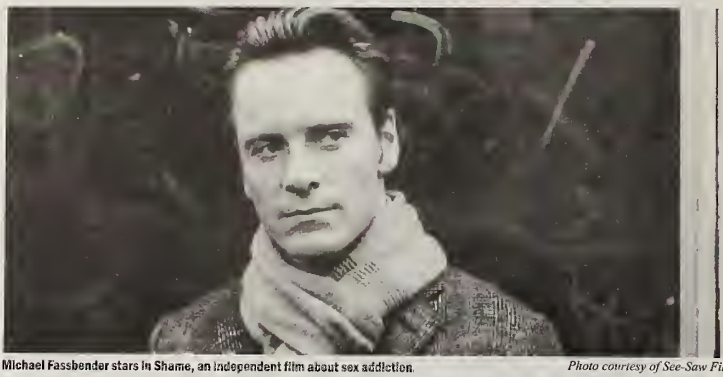
Fassbender saves new movie

By Jordon Bishop
Staff Writer



Michael Fassbender stars in Shame, an independent film about sex addiction. *Photo courtesy of See-Saw Films*

Shame tells the story of a sex addict's joyless need for physical pleasure. Michael Fassbender offers a superior performance.

The film has a very compelling plot and is very interesting to most viewers. Anything that involves sex usually draws a crowd.

But the movie, as most film critics describe, is a difficult go. It is a very serious and admirable story line and has great potential but the director, Steven McQueen, may have bitten off more than he could chew.

A movie about sex is very difficult to direct because there are boundaries that cannot be crossed. If they are crossed then you can say good bye to a Hollywood premier and say hello to the XXX industry.

McQueen does a fairly good job at directing the film and taking it right up to the line that shouldn't dare be crossed. But he was also given a lot of help from Fassbender.

Without the amazing actor, the movie would not be where it is at today. It would just be a thrilling movie on paper and would have been demolished on the big screens.

"The desperation, hostility and despair he conveys through the act of sex make Shame a film that is difficult to watch but even harder to turn away from," writes Kenneth Turan in the Los Angeles Times.

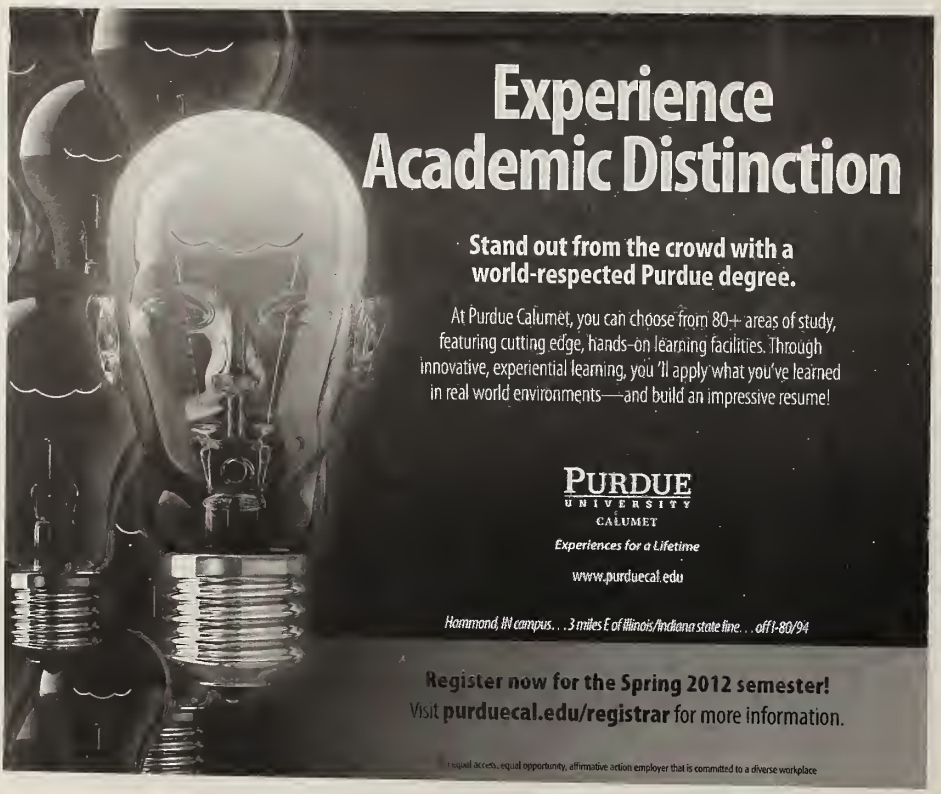
As far as ratings go for the film, I cannot really give the film itself a very high score.

On a scale of one to five, five being the highest, I give the film two and a half stars.

It was a wonderful and interesting movie but was not produced in a very powerful manner.

The only reason I enjoyed the movie so much was because of Fassbender. He did not only play the role of a sex addict, he became Brandon, the handsome sex addict of New York.

A good actor is born when they are able to become their character. Shame was a good movie for two reasons: sex and Fassbender.



Weekend split leaves Wolves 6-2

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Sports Editor

(Wolves fell to North Lake College, 85-67, on Dec. 2, but followed that up with a 77-63 win over Richland College on Saturday, Dec. 3. The split weekend left the Wolves with an overall record of 6-2.)

In the Wolves' first game in the Allegheny Tournament in Pittsburgh, Pa., on Nov. 17, the Wolves fell to No. 9 ranked Prince George's Community College by a score of 86-79 in overtime.

Although the Wolves lost, the team did have some highlighted points in the game. Cory Proctor was the team's leading scorer with 17 points. Antoine Cox tallied 14 points while Harrison Hines bad 12 points and Jon Bartlett added 11 points.

"We were in foul trouble for most of the game," Head Coach Joe Kuhn said. "Prince George's tied the game with 1.6 seconds left in regulation and then just dominated in the overtime."

JJC's record was brought down to 2-1 overall and afterwards faced tournament host Community College of Allegheny County on Nov. 18.

After the team returned to the hotel, they held a player meeting and "came together as a team," according to Garcia. On Nov. 18, the Wolves defeated the Community College of Allegheny County by a score of 77-58. The bright spots for the team were Proctor who led the way with 25 points followed by Brian Byrd with 12 points, Bartlett with 10 points and Reoney Northington with 10 points.

"We started out slow, but eventually got into our tempo," said Kuhn. "I was happy to see four players in double figures offensively."

JJC went into their final game of the tournament on Nov. 19 against Butler County Community College with a 3-1 overall record.

The team defeated them by a score of 126-64, almost doubling the output of the opposition. Five players scored in double figures including Cox with 25 points, Proctor with 23 points, Hines with 17 points, Brock Duke with 16 points and Byrd with 13 points.

The Wolves hit 15 three-pointers adding up to 45 points with Proctor having scored on five of the three-pointers.

"Our guys were in the zone today," said Kuhn. "We built a 65-27 halftime lead and never looked back."

On Nov. 29, the Wolves defeated Robert Morris University JV by a score of 102-33. Shazzon Mumphrey led the Wolves offensive attack with 25 points on 11 of 15 shooting.

He also accumulated eight rebounds and four assists. Hines was second in scoring with 17 points while Benjamin Daniel finished third with 12 points. Duke totaled 11 points while Cox finished with 10 points in the Wolves offensive attack respectively.

File Photo by Kat Boehle

Guard Reoney Northington tries to corner Illinois Valley player at home game last season.

"I thought our intensity was good and that we played the game right away," said Kuhn."We moved the ball well, which is evident with 29 assists on the game."

On the way to the tournament, the team received an unexpected surprise.

"We got to see Heinz Field and PNC Park," says student assistant Eric Garcia.

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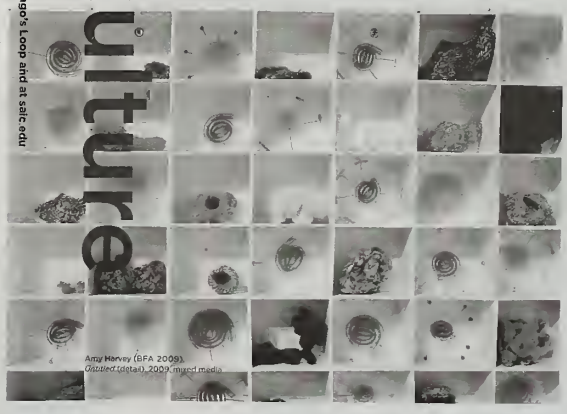


Amy Harvey (BFA 2009), *Dazzled* (detail), 2009, mixed media

Upcoming Home Games

Men's Basketball

Tuesday, Dec. 20, 7 p.m.
vs. Daley College

Saturday, Jan. 14, 3 p.m.
vs. Madison College

Saturday, Jan. 21, 3 p.m.
vs. Triton College

Women's Basketball

Tuesday, Dec. 20, 5 p.m.
vs. Daley College

Saturday, Jan. 14, 1 p.m.
vs. Madison College

Saturday, Jan. 14, 1 p.m.
vs. Triton College

Photo by Kat Boehle

Guard Brianna Marble gets past Kennedy King College defenders for a layup.

Women's basketball

Lady Wolves win 3 straight, record at 3-4

BY ISOM JACOBS
Staff Writer

The Lady Wolves won their last three games to bring their record to 3-4. The wins started with the 69-59 win over Kennedy-King College at the Nov. 15 home game.

In the game against Kennedy-King, the Lady Wolves started by scoring early and playing great defense. The team jumped to an early lead of 22-6 with 11:56 left in the first half. This fast start set the tone for the entire game as Kennedy-King College made a valiant effort but was never able to grab the lead.

The scoring leader, Keairra Collins, accounted for 25 points including five three-point shots. Shooting from downtown seem to be Collins' forte.

"I've been watching Keairra play for four years now," said Head Coach Shaun Sanderson. "She's a game changer with her shooting."

Celestra Warren scored 14 points in both of the first two games of the winning streak and 28 points against Illinois Valley Community College. She also attained six rebounds against Kennedy-King, eight against Kishwaukee College and nine against Illinois Valley.

"Every night someone different has stepped up to the plate," said Sanderson.

In the Kishwaukee game, freshman Brianna Marble shot a game winning three-point shot to edge out a win of 70-69.

Sanderson says the Lady Wolves have changed a lot.

"The biggest improvement has been cutting our turnovers down," Sanderson said. "We always tell our team you must value the basketball."

During the four-game losing streak, the team averaged around 30 turnovers.

Another major factor, as Sanderson says, was their depth during the winning streak. The "never-say-never" attitude helped the Lady Wolves fight back from being down in the game against Illinois Valley.

"During our upset win versus Illinois Valley, Adjoa Matthews had a career night, 18 points," said Sanderson. "Jameka Evans and Tabitha Dabulskis have continued to be a force on the defensive end."

Sanderson also noted that Nichelle Drayton has been the captain of this ship. Drayton has dictated the flow of the game from either end of the court. Alana Warren of Davenport, Iowa, is another key player. Sanderson states that she has a very high basketball IQ, which has been a great asset for student athletes.

With upcoming key games against Moraine Valley and Parkland College, a strong performance will be needed, but this team seems to be clicking and looks very confident.

"The thing I love most about our team is they don't quit," said Sanderson, "Over the years, our teams have always been known for playing tough basketball. Not only does this team play tough, they are composed in adverse situations on the court. That's what sophomore leadership and talent does to a team."

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

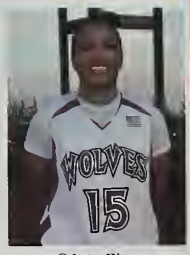
BY ERIC MONAHAN

Shazzon Mumphrey, a 6-foot-3-inch freshman forward/guard from Louisville, Ky., led the Wolves to a 102-33 victory over Robert Morris University JV. He scored 25 points on 11-15 shooting from the field, including 2-4 from 3-point range. Mumphrey also had eight rebounds and four assists. He helped the Wolves rebound after the loss to Prince George's Community College, allowing JJC to remain as the No. 6 ranked team in the nation.

Shazzon Mumphrey

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

Celestra Warren was named NJCAA Division III National Player of the Week on Nov. 30. She has also been named Region IV Player of the Week twice this season. The 5-foot-9-inch sophomore forward recently helped guide the Lady Wolves to a win over Illinois Valley Community College by a score of 76-71. Warren scored 28 points, grabbed nine rebounds and had three steals. Warren was 9-15 from the field and 7-9 from the free throw line.



Celestra Warren